

Birds of

Banni Grassland



Birds of Banni Grassland

Banni, an unique landscape and flourishing grassland, is endowed with fascinating history, geography, biodiversity, and a rich cultural heritage. The diversity of habitats and dynamic pattern changes with changing climatic conditions provide rich habitats for a variety of animals, especially birds. Birds are the natural capital of this grassland, which attracts many birdwatchers and tourists throughout the year. The grassland also attracts thousands of migratory birds from many parts of India, as well as the globe, during the winter. These avian visitors enhance the biodiversity and bring life to the grassland, in conjugation with the socio-cultural dimensions of its indigenous communities.

This book describes 262 species of birds (166 terrestrial species and 96 aquatic species) which are recorded from various parts of Banni Grassland. These birds belong to 51 families under 14 orders of Aves. Among them, 118 are resident to Banni, 76 are resident/short migratory, and 68 are migratory. The book contains short descriptions and photographs of all the recorded bird species of Banni Grassland for researchers, academicians, birdwatchers, bird enthusiasts, nature lovers, and general readers.



Birds of Banni Grassland

Mukesh H. Koladiya
Nikunj B. Gajera
A.K. Roy Mahato
V. Vijay Kumar
R.V. Asari



Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology

Published by
The Ravi Sankaran Foundation

Message

In the early hours before sunrise of January 17, 2009, Dr. Ravi Sankaran, Director, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a massive heart attack, on his farm some 40 km from Coimbatore. Within six hours thereafter, in the presence of his family, friends, colleagues, students, and local residents, his last rites were performed. Some eighteen months later, in a bizarre car accident, his wife and daughter died. The whole of the Ravi Sankaran family ceased to exist.

However unrelated, sad, and tragic these events, the irony should not be lost: first, the loss of a researcher and conservationist at the prime of his productive life, and then the speed with which the whole family disappeared. So with the avian species that Ravi so diligently researched, which depend on the existence of thriving grasslands. As these spaces disappear, so will these species. As humans we need to tread lightly on the path of development, for we do not know when, and at what speed, the consequences of our consumption today will hurt our tomorrow. What we do know, from the excellent work being done by people like Ravi and others, is that when it does hit us it will be gargantuan, unanticipated, and will devastate our whole species. How close are we to our environmental apocalypse?

India's unique grasslands are an ecological asset that is not too well understood. The Adivasi tribes that traverse these landscapes know their importance, utility, and magnificence. Outsiders do not. A few, like Ravi, have made the effort. Unfortunately, with few champions, the march of development will seek to "unlock" the "value" of these spaces for other purposes, mainly industry and urbanization. The recently announced policy of the Government of India to establish

gigawatt-scale solar farms has major implications for our remaining grasslands. A single megawatt of solar power requires 5 acres of land, as against the 0.25 acres required in conventional power plants! Such large tracts of land will inevitably include grasslands, unless banned from such use. Policy must respond urgently and ban any development on India's remaining grasslands. The Adivasis should be paid to look after them and ensure that they are sustained for succeeding generations. Research on the ecological role played by grasslands and study of the species that live off grasslands must be urgently supported.

The Ravi Sankaran Foundation (RSF) was formed in Ravi's name, soon after his death, to support initiatives that lead to sustainable conservation measures, support research, and further our understanding of the workings of such fragile ecosystems, and to build human resources and other capacity in the fields of ecology, field biology, and conservation. It was thus with the greatest of pleasure that the RSF agreed to sponsor this book when approached by the Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology.

We hope that the book will give readers an unique insight into one of India's fast disappearing landscapes, provoke those in power to act to preserve these ecological assets, and instigate more research. Above all, we wish it makes enjoyable reading!

Finally, we would like to place on record our appreciation of the selfless support the Foundation has received from Kirti Trivedi in designing the book. His contribution to the world of design has been, at once, both inspirational and transformative. We could not have left this task to any other.

The Ravi Sankaran Foundation

Foreword

India had vast stretches of grasslands, distributed across varied altitudes, longitudes, latitudes, agro-climatic regimes, and biogeographical provinces. However, most have vanished due to the misconceptions about their ecological worth. Thus, contrary to the popular perception, grasslands have become highly endangered terrestrial ecosystems in the country. Consequently, we have lost several species, including the stunning Cheetah, and we are on the way to losing species such as Great Indian Bustard, several other birds, mammals, and reptiles, and many more. Grasslands traditionally used as community grazing areas, a common property resource, have always been an inseparable part of the economic, ecological, and socio-cultural landscape of humankind. However, increasing demands on these fragile ecosystems from multiple quarters, notably agricultural intensification, infrastructure development, mining, quarrying, industrial and commercial development, invasive species, and what is more, the very neglect of the common property resources, have eroded much of the native grasslands in the Subcontinent. In particular, the semi-arid grasslands of northern Gujarat are among the most vulnerable to such modern-day externalities. In recognition of the unique biodiversity value of these grasslands and their importance to the livelihood of local communities, Government of India in 2008 designated the Kachchh region as the 15th Biosphere Reserve of the country. The region's rich flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the ecosystem, are represented by about 35 species of mammals including the Asiatic Wild Ass and Caracal, and over 250 species of birds: waterfowl, waders including flamingos, raptors, bustards, coursers, cranes, sandgrouse, larks, shrikes, wheatears, and chats.

Regrettably, the inimitable biodiversity of the region remains poorly documented and this has seriously impeded efforts to understand the strong linkages between people and biodiversity in the region and the entire gamut of ecosystem services and functions of the landscape elements. Our current knowledge of Kachchh's avifauna is immensely indebted to the works of stalwarts like Salim Ali, Dharmakumarsinhji, Himmatsinhji, and Lavkumar Khachar. However, much more

is to be learnt about the diversity and status of the birds of the grasslands of Kachchh. In this context, this work admirably documenting the avifauna of the Banni grasslands of the Kachchh region is a laudable attempt to fill the gap. The cover with the excellent photograph of the landscape and the Steppe Eagle is so inviting to explore the landscape. With bird photographs of remarkably uniform quality, this book serves as a handy identification guide to the birds in the field. It is also quite thoughtful that snippets of ecology and population status of each species are given as annotation. I compliment the authors for their remarkable efforts.

As India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (2008) has rightfully acknowledged that grasslands are one of the high-priority landscapes for conservation planning, the semi-arid grasslands of Banni require an integrated approach involving all the stakeholders. With the publication of this key documentation, we can hope that the grasslands of Banni and their unique avifauna will now receive much deserved attention from birdwatchers, conservationists, and decision makers.

I am excited to find that this remarkable contribution to the country's ornithological knowledge is dedicated to Dr. Ravi Sankaran, the former Director of SACON and a close friend and intimate colleague of mine as well as many researchers. He also happened to be one of the early researchers on the grasslands of western India, completing his Ph.D. working on Lesser Florican, an endangered grassland species. It is a befitting homage to the path-breaking and industrious ornithologist, who left us all at a very young and productive age. I wish to congratulate the Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, its Chairman Mr. Sudhir G. Mankad, and the Ravi Sankaran Foundation, Mumbai for this commendable gesture. I am sure that the conservation research community would greatly appreciate and benefit from the "Birds of Banni Grassland".

P.A. Azeez

Director

**Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.**



Foreword

Banni constitutes nearly 2,500 sq. km of arid grassland, roughly 85 km in length and 30 km wide, separating habitats from the Rann, in the border district of Kachchh in Gujarat. Many years ago, parts of it were lush grasslands, supporting animal husbandry and dairy farming by the people living on its fringes. The rich grasslands were gradually taken over by the invasive *Prosopis juliflora*, Gaando Baval in Gujarati, which brought in its wake rapacious charcoal makers, who destroyed the green cover of Banni, leaving it bare, brown, and vulnerable. It is heartening that after charcoal making was banned, and as a result of the efforts of State foresters, Banni is showing signs of recovery.

Banni is a unique ecosystem not seen elsewhere. Amid the desolation exists abundant avian life. Chhari Dhandh and other water bodies in Banni are a favourite stopover for thousands of migrating birds from cold climes. Banni is also home to many other small animals and raptors, and the Wild Ass can be seen in some parts.

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) and its small team of dedicated scientists have been studying avian life in Banni for many years. During the last three years, they have put together photographs of more than 250 species of birds found in Banni, and presented to enthusiasts and the common reader basic scientific information for each. Without their commitment and enthusiasm, this book could not have happened. We at GUIDE sincerely acknowledge the generosity of those well wishers who made available the photographs used in this publication.

I am grateful to my friend Hari Sankaran for agreeing to publish this book in memory of his brother, the late Dr. Ravi Sankaran, ornithologist and former Director of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON). GUIDE is deeply obliged to the Ravi Sankaran Foundation for presenting this beautiful book on the Birds of Banni Grassland.

Sudhir G. Mankad, IAS (Retd)
Chairman
Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology
Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat.





Contents

4 Message

The Ravi Sankaran Foundation

6 Foreword

P.A. Azeez, Director

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

9 Foreword

Sudhir G. Mankad, Chairman

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology

12 Introduction

20 Methods

**25 Detailed Description and
Status of Birds in Banni Grassland**

26 Terrestrial birds

194 Aquatic birds

291 References

296 Index of Common Names

298 Index of Scientific Names

300 Authors' Profiles

302 Photo Credits

Introduction

Grasslands – An Overview

Grasslands are a unique kind of ecosystem dominated by grasses over other kinds of vegetation, and characterised by diverse life forms which are linked together through the food chain and food web. Grasslands are mainly distributed in areas of low and erratic rainfall and are classified as a region where annual precipitation is just enough to support predominantly grasses and some scattered trees. Grasses and their value to human beings have been recognized since time immemorial. Humans directly and indirectly use grassland and grasses for many purposes. The relationship between man and grasses dates back to Palaeolithic times (Leafe, 1988).

India accounts for 15% of the world's livestock population, while available grazing lands in India are very meagre (2% of the world's area). This leads to excessive grazing pressure followed by land degradation, resulting in about 80% of the grassland range being categorised as “poor” (GoI, 2007). It is a matter of concern that grasslands are the most neglected and least protected ecosystem in India (GoI, 2007).

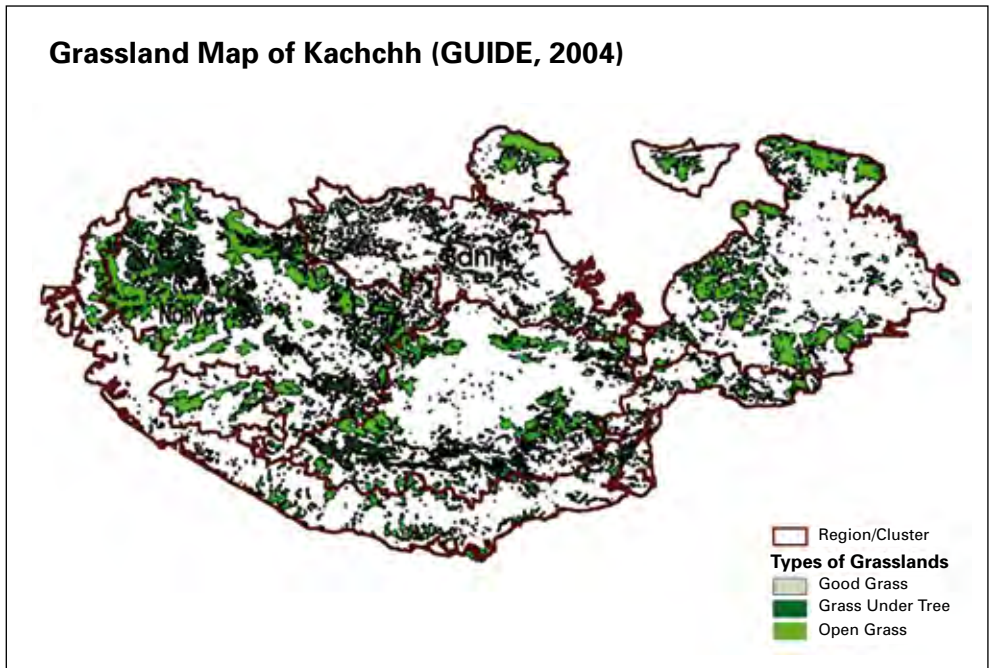
The varied species of grasses and associated vegetation in a grassland offer ideal habitats for large numbers of animal species that co-exist and sustain themselves successfully. The presence of large open grassland ecosystems helps prey species to escape from predators, by providing greater visibility to the escaping species. On the other hand, predators can easily spot their prey in open grassland landscapes. Thus, grassland ecosystems play a pivotal role in prey-predator relationships. The interspersed water bodies in a grassland form an ideal habitat for several kinds of animal groups, particularly wetland birds, herpetofauna, insects, annelids, etc., to survive and sustain themselves successfully.

Grasslands of Gujarat and Kachchh

The grasslands of Gujarat state, which encompass an area of 8,490 km², are distributed in eight districts of the state, with the majority (41.23%) occurring in Kachchh district (SAC, 2001). The State Forest Department manages an area of about

1,400 km² of grasslands known as *vidis* or *rakhals*, of which an area of 1,295 km² is located in Kachchh and Saurashtra region of the state (Tiwari and Rahmani, 1997). In ecological terms, the Kachchh grasslands fall under *Dichanthium-Cenchrus-Lasiurus* type (Dabadhghao and Shankarnarayan 1973, Yadava and Singh 1977). Though grasslands are part of every ecosystem type, the total grassland area reported in Kachchh was 5,077 km² (Figures 1, 2), which constitutes 24% of the main land area (total reported area 21,111 km²) of Kachchh district (GUIDE, 2004). There are two important grassland regions in Kachchh: Banni Grassland covering an area of 2,617.72 km² and Naliya which extends up to 654 km². Other scattered patches of grasslands are found in the hilly undulating areas of Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, and Mundra, while isolated pockets of coastal grasslands are spread in Lakhpat, Abdasa, Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar, and Bhachau talukas of the district (GUIDE, 2004). All grasslands are invaded by many weeds, especially *Prosopis juliflora* which has infested about 3,853 km² (75.88%) of the grasslands to various extents, whereas good grass cover is found only in an area of 568 km² (11.19%) out of the total 5,077 km². These grasslands, besides supporting the regional economy through the animal husbandry sector, also play an important role in performing various ecological services, including maintenance of biodiversity.

Figure 1
Distribution of
grasslands in Kachchh
district, Gujarat



Overview of Banni Grassland

Banni, the largest and perhaps the only vast stretch of grassland in India, spreads between 23° 22' 15" N and 23° 48' 07" N latitudes and from 69° 09' 14" E to 70° 10' 23" E longitudes, with a perimeter of 367 km (Figure 3). It is located in Kachchh district of Gujarat along the southern fringes of the Greater Rann of Kachchh. The term Banni was derived from a Kachchhi word *Bannai*, which means 'made of' and thus signifies that the land has been formed by detritus.

Interestingly, the grasslands of Banni have many interspersed temporary as well as permanent wetlands, which in good rainfall years attract many migratory bird species. The most important wetlands in Banni are Chhari Dhandh with a maximum waterspread of 8,000 ha, Luna Dhandh, and Servo Dhandh. Chhari Dhandh has recently been declared as a Conservation Reserve by the Government of Gujarat.

Figure 2

Map showing Kachchh district and Greater Rann of Kachchh

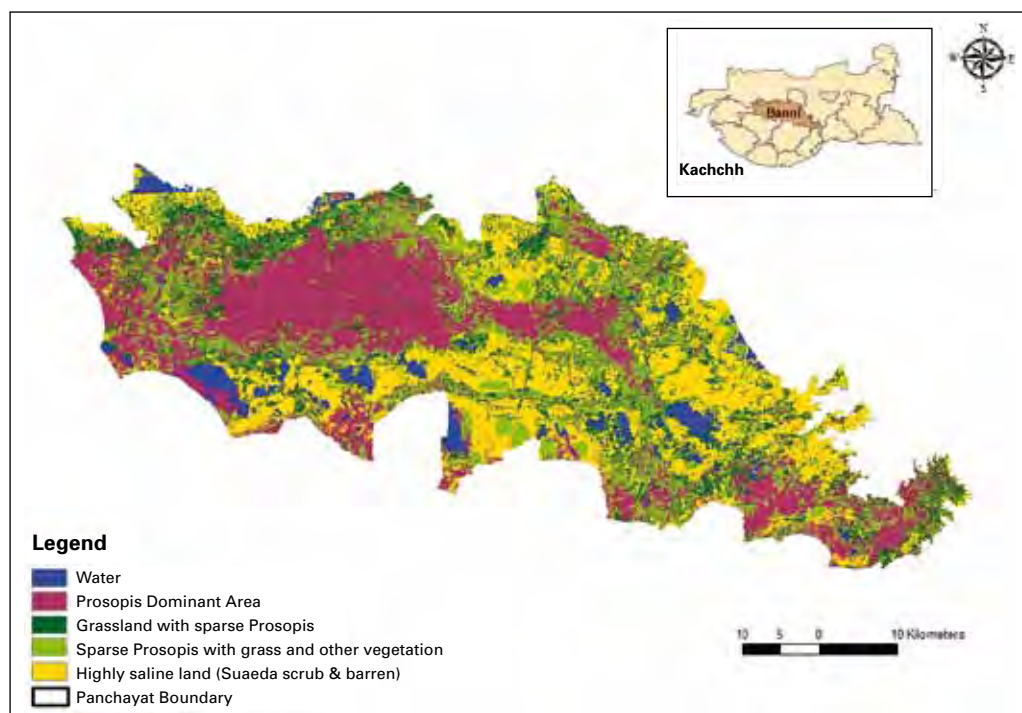


Geography and geological history of Banni Grassland: The plains of Banni represent an embayment between the Kachchh mainland uplift in the south, the Pachchham uplift in the north, and the Wagad and Bela uplift in the east. Banni plains form a low alluvial tableland rising 3 to 10 m above the level of the Greater Rann, and the entire area is more or less flat and without

any gradient. In the southern part of Banni there is an intervening stretch of salty waste separating Banni from the Kachchh mainland, known as Little Rann of Banni.

As the name implies, it is commonly believed that Banni was formed by detritus and sediments brought down and deposited by the many rivers flowing northwards from Bhuj ridge, including Nara, Bhurud, Bhukhi, Nirona, Kaila, Khari, Kaswati, and Panjora. However, the sediments actually show a strong affinity to the materials brought down by the Rivers Indus, Luni, Banas, and Saraswati, which in the recent geological past flowed through this area from the north and east (Kadikar, 1994). Studies on heavy minerals (Roy, 1973) also confirm that the sediments of Banni plains represent the sediments brought by the Indus river. There are also evidences to suggest that Banni is a part of the Greater Rann of Kachchh (GIAP, 1989) and together with the Little Rann, used to form “the old arms” of the Arabian Sea that silted up, and subsequently gave rise to the Banni plains.

Figure 3
Location and overview (GIS map) of Banni grassland in Kachchh district



Climate

The climate of Banni is arid, with maximum temperatures of 44 °C to 47 °C during summer and a minimum of 11 °C during winter which on rare occasions dips to 4 to 5 °C. The annual evapo-transpiration is 1,887 mm and relative humidity is between 50 and 60% (Rao *et al.*, 1996).

Biodiversity

Flora: The waterlogged and marshy saline areas get colonized by sedges like *Fimbristylis*, *Scirpus*, *Cyperus*, and *Elaeocharis*, whereas low to moderately saline areas are covered with annual halophytic species such as *Zygophyllum* sp., *Cressa cretica*, and *Portulaca* sp. *Suaeda fruticosa* is a predominant species in low-lying saline areas and at places the density goes over 4,000–8,000 plants/ha. High saline areas are colonized by perennial grasses of low productivity and palatability such as *Aeluropes* sp. and *Urochondra* sp. The perennial, palatable grasses with high productivity in this area, which grow in low to moderate saline areas, include *Sporobolus pallidus*, *S. helvolus*, *Dichanthium annulatum*, *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *C. setigerus*, and *Desmostachya bipinnata* (Singh and Kar, 1996).

Overview of the grassland habitat

Among the tree species, *Acacia nilotica* was once distributed all over Banni, but it has been, in the course of time, replaced by *Prosopis juliflora*. The tree and shrub strata are mainly composed of *Prosopis cineraria*, *Acacia nilotica*, *A. leucophloea*, *A. senegal*, *Salvadora persica*, *S. oleoides*, *Capparis decidua*, *Tamarix* sp., and *Prosopis juliflora*. These are found in the wilderness as well as near human settlements. Further, tree species like *Azadirachta indica* and other plant species such as *Ziziphus nummularia* and *Calotropis procera* are also found in the area. Today the upper canopy is, however, largely dominated by the woody shrub *Prosopis juliflora*.

Banni grassland during monsoon

Fauna: Banni has traditionally supported wildlife that has adapted to local conditions. The major wild animals of Banni include Blue Bull, Chinkara, Indian Hare, Wild Boar, Jackal, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Hyaena, Fox, and Jungle Cat. The endangered mammals of the area include the Indian Wolf, Caracal, and Chinkara. Banni also supports a rich diversity of avifauna, herpetofauna, invertebrates, and micro-organisms. The important avifauna of Banni Grassland includes Flamingos, MacQueen's Bustard, White-winged Black Tit, Stoliczka's Bushchat, and Grey Hypocolius (GUIDE 1998). Banni is also a haven for migratory raptors and an important staging ground for the migratory Common Crane *Grus grus*. The herpetofauna includes Spiny-tailed Lizard *Uromastyx hardwickii*, Common Monitor Lizard, and species of snakes such as vipers and sand snakes.

High saline area with invasion of *Prosopis juliflora*

Reptiles and rodents form the major diet of raptors in Banni. Luna village in western Banni encompasses a pond which is one of the best heronries of Gujarat. This 50 year





old heronry supports the largest nesting colony of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* not only in Gujarat, but also throughout western India (Tiwari and Rahmani 1997). This apart, a good number of nests of Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Median Egret, Night Heron, Little Cormorant, Oriental White Ibis, and Spoonbill have been recorded in this heronry.

What is a bird?

Birds are warm-blooded quadrupeds with the unique ability to fly. The normal body temperature of birds is about 38–44 °C, which is higher than that of most mammals. Therefore, the basal metabolic rate (BMR) of birds is also higher than that of mammals.

Birds are believed to have originated from a reptilian ancestor. The total number of bird species inhabiting the earth today is estimated at about 8,600. If subspecies or geographical races are taken into account, the figure would rise to nearly 30,000.

Methods

Avifaunal sampling

Prior to field surveys, the Banni study area was classified into various land use categories, such as Woodland, Grasslands, Wetlands, and human habitation. Woodland and Grasslands were further subdivided into distinguishable habitats such as Dense *Prosopis* (DP), Moderate *Prosopis* (MP), Sparse *Prosopis* (SP), *Euphorbia-Salvadora* (ES), Dense grassland (DG), and Sparse grassland (SG).

Table 1: Land use classes with area (1979–2009)

Class	1989		1999		2009	
	Area (ha)	% Area	Area (ha)	% Area	Area (ha)	%Area
Grassland	142,882.0	54.57	80,639.4	30.80	63,073.4	24.09
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i> dominated area	41,180.8	15.72	63,717.5	24.33	80,356.7	30.67
Saline Soil	71,473.9	27.30	109,180.0	41.69	113,376.0	43.30
Water	6,323.92	2.41	8,323.65	3.17	5,054.5	1.94
Total Area	261,860.62	100	261,860.55	100	261,860.55	100

To assess the diversity and distribution pattern of birds in Banni Grassland, stratified random sampling method was employed, using transects of 1.1 km (n=60 transects) in different habitats. All transects were laid diagonally to randomly picked 1 x 1 km grid. Care was taken to represent the sampling in each of the topographical features across lateral and vertical gradients, like altitudinal range and terrain, and spatially within each habitat type. Sampling was done in summer (breeding season), monsoon (breeding season and monsoon visitors), and winter (migrants and winter visitors) for a period of three years between 2009 and 2011.

Bird survey was done using direct count methods, which include: (1) Point Count method and (2) Area Search method. In the former method, all birds were recorded in four 25 m radius plots at a distance of 300 m, as suggested by Bibby *et al.* (1992) (Figure 4). Each plot was surveyed for 15 minutes. In the case of Area Search method, survey was done using a 300 m long and 3 m wide belt between the abovementioned points, which was mentioned as a time and area constrained survey technique by Dieni and Jones (2002).

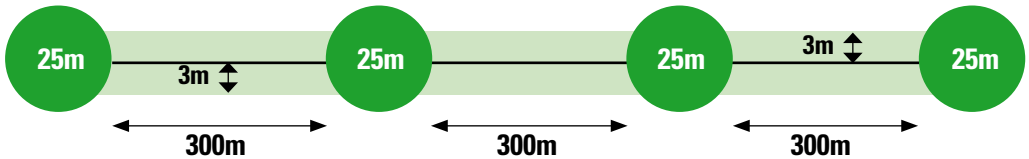


Figure 4
Design of line transect and circular plot for sampling of birds

The time taken for survey varied from 1 hour 45 minutes to 2 hours 15 minutes, depending upon the terrain and topography. During winter and monsoon seasons, survey was conducted in the morning between 6.30 am and 9.30 am, and in the evening between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm. However, during summer season, survey was done for one hour early in the morning and one hour late in the evening. Observations were carried out with the aid of 8 x 40 binoculars and field characteristics were noted down on special ornithological data sheets that include species, number of individuals, activity, microhabitat, and threat, along with other details. The birds were identified with the help of reference books of Ali and Ripley (1983), Ali (2002), and Grimmett *et al.* (2006). Major water bodies in the study area were also surveyed for aquatic bird species and the number of individuals were counted. In the case of larger water bodies having numerous individuals, flock or block count method was used (Bhupathy, 1991).

Birds sighted during our survey were categorized as per their migratory status, such as resident breeder (RB), resident (R), and migrant (M), based on observations during the present study and the previous records by Ali (2002). The birds were also grouped into trophic guilds as insectivores, nectarivores, omnivores, scavengers, frugivores, carnivores, piscivores, and granivores, based on the descriptions provided by Karr *et al.* (1990), Anjos (2001) and field observations on the birds' activity. The status of bird populations was categorized as very common (VC) if recorded during >80% of

field visits; common (C) if recorded during 50–79% of field visits; fairly common (FC) if recorded during 20–49% of field visits; and rare (R) if recorded during <19% of field visits.

Overview of the Avifauna of Banni Grassland and Kachchh

The grasslands of India are very important for avifauna, as they are an abode for 477 species of birds which are solely dependent on grasslands for their survival (Groombridge, 1992). Altogether, 370 bird species have been reported from Kachchh district (Sen, 2012). Banni Grassland is known for its rich avifaunal diversity. The water bodies of Banni support over 150 species of migratory and resident birds, and are important staging grounds for several thousands of migratory cranes (GEC, 1998). Various workers reported rich diversity of birds from Banni Grassland, including 78 bird species by CEDO (2012), 66 species by Sorensen (2007), and 250 species from Chhaari Dhandh by Sen (2012). Further, Banni Grassland acts as a breeding and nesting ground for more than 250 bird species, including residents and winter migrants (Banni Breeders Association, 2012). Among the reported birds from Banni, 47 species are threatened (IBC, 2012).

Interesting sighting records of some bird species include Long-eared Owl (Joshua *et al.*, 2005), Habshi Flamingo (Vaidya, 1987), and Blacknecked Grebe from Chhari Dhandh (Akhtar and Tiwari, 1992). Keeping these in view, Rahmani *et al.* (1998) emphasized the conservation significance of Banni Grassland and recommended it for conservation action.

Avifaunal composition of the recorded birds in Banni Grassland

During the present survey between 2009 and 2011, a total of 262 species of birds (166 terrestrial and 96 aquatic species) belonging to 153 genera of 51 families under 14 orders of Aves were recorded in Banni. Among the recorded birds, 118 were resident to Banni, 76 species were resident/short migratory, and the rest of the 68 species were migratory. On analysing the feeding habits of the recorded birds, it was found that there were 87 species of insectivores, 69 species of omnivores, 68 species of carnivores, 20 species of granivores, 15 species of piscivores, 2 species of frugivores, and one species of nectarivore. According to the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act,

1972, 3 of the Banni bird species are recorded under Part-III of Schedule-I, and the remaining 259 species fall under Schedule-IV. Among the total recorded bird species, 4 are Critically Endangered (CR), 1 Endangered (EN), 8 Vulnerable (VU), 11 Near Threatened (NT), and the rest of the 238 species are under Least Concern (LC) category of the IUCN Redlist of Threatened Animals, 2011.

The detailed descriptions of all these bird species are given in this book.





Birds of
Banni Grassland

Terrestrial Birds

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite or Black-shouldered Kite

Elanus caeruleus (Desfontaines, 1789)

Synonym: *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

Local Names: Kapasi (Gujarati); Kapassi (Hindi, Bengali); Adavi ramadasu (Telugu); Argellur (Yerkali); Velli-eriyam (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: House Crow, <33 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Forest and grassland

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: Round the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly seen on overhead electric wires and on *Prosopis juliflora*.

Oriental Honey-buzzard or Honey Buzzard

Pernis ptilorhynchus (Temminck, 1821)

Synonym: *Pernis ptilorhynchus ptilorhynchus*

Local Names: Madhiyo baj (Gujarati); Shahutela, Madkare (Hindi); Tenu geddu (Telugu); Ten parandu (Tamil); Jen alawa (Kannada); Ten kotichi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Kite, ±68 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Semi-desert to semi-evergreen forest, and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: North-west India

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Maldives

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found on *Prosopis juliflora*.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans (Boddaert, 1783)

Synonyms: *Milvus korschun*, *Milvus migrans migrans*, *Milvus migrans govinda*

Local Names: Samadi (Gujarati); Cheel (Hindi, Bengali); Malla gadda (Telugu); Paria parandu, Kalu parandu (Tamil); Chilana, Mugacharani (Assam); Chakki parandu (Malayalam); Ghar (Marathi)

Shape & Size: 61 cm

Habitat: Chiefly urban localities

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: Round the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on overhead electric wires, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Suaeda* scrub.

Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus (Boddaert, 1783)

Local Names: Chotili samadi (Gujarati); Brahmani cheel, Sankar cheel, Dhobia cheel (Hindi); Shankha cheel (Bengal); Khemankari (Sanskrit); Garuda (Kannada); Garuda lawa, Garuda mantaru (Telugu); Sem parundu, Krishna parunthu (Tamil); Ranga cheelani (Assam); Garudan, Krishna parundu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Kite, <48 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Sea coast and inland

Breeding Period: December to April

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: Round the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found on *Prosopis juliflora*, sometimes on overhead electric wires.

Shikra

Accipiter badius (Gmelin, 1788)

Synonym: *Accipiter badius badius*

Local Names: Shakro (Gujarati); Shikra – male, Chipka or Cheepak – female (Hindi, Marathi); Shikre (Bengal); Tingkyi (Lepcha); U-cham (Sikkim)

Shape & Size: House Crow, <30–34 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Light deciduous forest, village groves

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally seen on *Prosopis juliflora*, electric wires, and ground.

Eurasian Sparrow-hawk or Sparrow-Hawk

Accipiter nisus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Badshah Shakro (Gujarati);
Basha (Hindi)

Shape & Size: House Crow, <31–36 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Forest and grassland

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Himalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, North-west India

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Accipitridae

Long-legged Buzzard

Buteo rufinus (Cretzschmar, 1827)

Synonym: *Buteo ferox*

Local Names: Mosami tiso (Gujarati);
Chuhamar (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Kite, ±61 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Rocky ground with forest, open
country, and cultivation

Breeding Period: March to May

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Himalayan forests,
North-west India, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly seen on *Prosopis juliflora* and electric poles.

White-eyed Buzzard

Butastur teesa (Franklin, 1831)

Local Names: Savet nayan tiso (Gujarati);
Tisa (Hindi); Buda mali gedda (Telugu);
Parundu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: House Crow, ±43 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open dry forest, scrub, and
cultivation

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Bonelli's Eagle

Hieraaetus fasciatus (Vieillot, 1822)

Synonyms: *Aquila fasciata*, *Aquila fasciatus*

Local Names: Sansa garaj (Gujarati); Morangi (Hindi); Kundeli salawa (Telugu); Rajali (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, 68–72 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Well-wooded country

Breeding Period: December and January

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found on ground, trees, electric poles, normally singly or in pairs.

Booted Eagle or Booted Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus pennatus (Gmelin, 1788)

Synonyms: *Aquila pennata*, *Aquila pennatus*, *Hieraaetus dubius*

Local Names: Pardesi ane, Shiyalu, Sansa, Garaj (Gujarati); Baghati, Jumiz, Gilehrimar (Hindi); Udatal gedda (Telugu); Punja parandu, Rasali, Kalugu (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, <50–54 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Well-wooded country, hills, plains, and semi-desert

Breeding Period: December and February

Clutch Size: 1–2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Eastern Imperial Eagle or Imperial Eagle

Aquila heliaca Savigny, 1809

Synonym: *Aquila heliaca heliaca*

Local Names: Shahi jummas (Gujarati); Jumiz, Bada jumiz, Salangal (Hindi); Frus (Bengal)

Shape & Size: Vulture, <81–90 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open treeless country

Breeding Period: February to April

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Most of the individuals were recorded in grassland, one to three individuals at a time.

Tawny Eagle

Aquila rapax (Temminck, 1828)

Synonym: *Aquila vindhiana*

Local Names: Deshi jummas (Gujarati); Ukaab, Ragar (Hindi); Dholva (Wagri); Alawa, Salawa (Telugu); Ali (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, 63–71 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Semi-desert, dry deciduous and moist deciduous country

Breeding Period: November to April

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in grass cover areas and on top of *Prosopis juliflora*.

Order: **Ciconiiformes**

Family: Accipitridae

Steppe Eagle

Aquila nipalensis Hodgson, 1833

Synonyms: *Aquila nipalensis nipalensis*, *Aquila rapax nipalensis*

Local Names: Nepali jummas (Gujarati); Ali (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, 62–81 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open dry, desert, semi-desert, and savannah

Breeding Period: December to March

Clutch Size: 1–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on electric poles, *Prosopis juliflora*, and above ground.

Greater Spotted Eagle

Aquila clanga Pallas, 1811

Synonyms: *Aquila maculata*, *Ictinaetus clangus*

Local Names: Tapkivalo jummas (Gujarati); Kaljanga (Hindi); Ali (Tamil); Nalla gadda (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Kite, 64–72 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Large marshes, lakes, and canals

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 1–2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on ground, electric pole, and on *Prosopis juliflora*.

Lesser Spotted Eagle

Aquila pomarina Brehm, 1831

Synonyms: *Aquila pomarina pomarina*,
Ictinaetus pomarinus

Local Names: Nano tapkivalo jummas
(Gujarati); Pahari teesa (Hindi); Gutimar
(Bengali); Ali (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, 61–66 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open wooded country and
cultivation

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 1–3



Distribution: India: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, and western states

Elsewhere: Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on electric pole, *Prosopis juliflora*, and above ground.

Red-headed Vulture or King Vulture

Sarcogyps calvus (Scopoli, 1786)

Synonyms: *Aegyptius calvus*, *Aegyus calvus*

Local Names: Raj gidh (Gujarati); Raj gidh, Mulla gidh, Bhaonra (Hindi); Raj shakun, Kalo shakun (Bengal); Raj hogon (Assam); Nalla borawa (Telugu)

Shape & Size: 84 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open country, cultivation, and semi-desert

Breeding Period: December to April

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Critically Endangered

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Accipitridae

Cinereous Vulture

Aegypius monachus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Local Names: Shahi gidh (Gujarati); Kala gidh (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Vulture, 100–110 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Semi-desert

Breeding Period: March to April

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala

Elsewhere: Baluchistan, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.

Griffon Vulture or Eurasian Griffon

Gyps fulvus (Hablizl, 1783)

Local Name: Pahadi gidh (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Vulture, 110–122 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Bare mountains, open savannah, and semi-desert country

Breeding Period: January to April

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: North-west India, Assam, Maharashtra

Elsewhere: Nepal, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Accipitridae

Indian Vulture or Indian Long-billed Vulture

Gyps indicus (Scopoli, 1786)

Synonym: *Gyps indicus indicus*

Local Names: Bhartiya gidh (Gujarati); Gidh (Hindi); Gidhad (Marathi); Shakun (Bengali); Hogun (Assamese); Gut (Lepcha)

Shape & Size: 92 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open countryside

Breeding Period: November to March

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: Himalaya, eastern India, Rajasthan, Gujarat

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Critically Endangered

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.

White-rumped Vulture or Indian White-backed Vulture

Gyps bengalensis (Gmelin, 1788)

Synonym: *Pseudogyps bengalensis*

Local Names: Savet pith gidh (Gujarati);
Gidh (Hindi); Gidhad (Marathi); Shakun
(Bengali); Matti pudum-gadu (Telugu);
Kazhukan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: 90 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open countryside

Breeding Period: October to March

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Critically Endangered

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.

Scavenger Vulture

Neophron percnopterus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Khero gidh (Gujarati); Safed gidh, Kal kurgh (Hindi); Shwet shakun (Bengali); Got gidh (Bihar); Tella borawa, Peethiri gadda (Telugu); Thotti kazhukan (Malayalam); Manjal thirudi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, ±64 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Near towns and villages

Breeding Period: February to April

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Endangered

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare

Remarks: One pair recorded in December 2010 along the roadside near Bhirandiyara village.

Northern Harrier or Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonym: *Circus cyaneus cyaneus*

Local Name: Uttari pattaai (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Kite, 43–52 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Swamps, grassy plains, and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Normally found on *Prosopis* trees and grass beds.

Pallid Harrier or Pale Harrier

Circus macrourus (Gmelin, 1770)

Local Names: Ujali pattai (Gujarati); Dastamal, Girgitmar, Pattai (Hindi); Mathcheel (Bengal); Tella chappa gadda, Pilli gadda (Telugu); Poonai parundu (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, 46–51 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Undulating country, plateau, grassland, hills, cultivation, and semi-desert

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in open grassland areas.

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Circus pigargus*

Local Names: Pati pattaai (Gujarati); Das-tamal, Girgitmar, Pattai (Hindi); Math cheel (Bengal); Tella chappa gadda, Pilli gadda (Telugu); Poonai parundu (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, <46–49 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Swamps, grassy plains, and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat (Kachchh)

Elsewhere: Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Accipitridae

Western Marsh-Harrier or Eurasian Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Pan pattai (Gujarati); Kutar, Safed sira (Hindi); Pan cheel, Tilla bauri (Bengali); Poonai parundu (Tamil); Karitappi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Kite, <54–59 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, flooded rice fields, and hills

Breeding Period: March to May

Clutch Size: 3–8



Distribution: India: All coastal areas

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Maldives

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland and village areas.

Short-toed Snake-eagle or Short-toed Eagle

Circaetus gallicus (Gmelin, 1788)

Synonym: *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*

Local Names: Sapmar (Gujarati); Saampmar (Hindi); Sapmaril (Bengal); Malpatar (Kannada); Pamula gadda (Telugu); Onan koththi, Pambu parandu (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Kite, 63–68 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Agriculture, stony deciduous scrub, semi-desert, and hills

Breeding Period: December to May

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: Round the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Observed in most of our surveys in Banni Grassland.

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Machchhimar (Gujarati); Machhlimar, Machhariya, Machhmanga (Hindi); Machhmarol, Kurari, Utkrosh (Bengal); Koramen gadda (Telugu); Vral addipan (Tamil); Talipparundu (Malayalam); Pantiong (Lepcha)

Shape & Size: Kite, <56 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Lakes, reservoirs, estuaries

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 1–2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule I, Part-III

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded most of the time in pairs in open grassy habitats.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus Tunstall, 1771

Synonyms: *Falco madens*, *Falco japonicus*,
Falco kreyengorgi

Local Names: Shahin (Gujarati); Bhyri
– female, Bhyri bacha – male (Hindi);
Bhyridega (Telugu); Kayal pullu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Jungle Crow, <40–48 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Banks of rivers, marshes, and lagoons

Breeding Period: February to March

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Most of the time observed on
Prosopis juliflora.

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Falconidae

Eurasian Hobby or Hobby

Falco subbuteo Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Moti dhoti (Gujarati);
Morassani (Uttar Pradesh)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, 31–34 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open wooded country and semi-desert

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: North-west India,
Karnataka

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.



Red-headed Falcon or Red-necked Falcon

Falco chicquera Daudin, 1800

Local Names: Turoomti (Gujarati); Turumti – male, Turumtari – female (Hindi); Jellaganta, Jelgadda (Telugu)

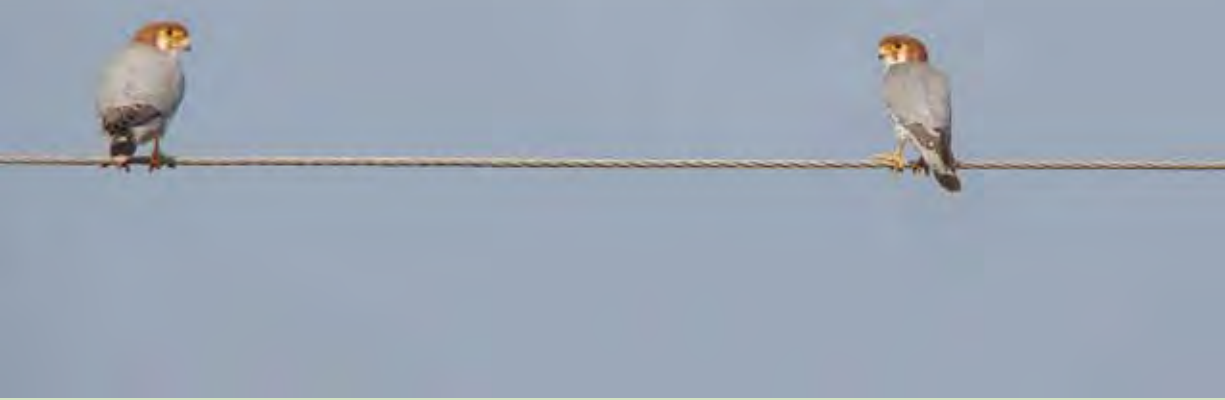
Shape & Size: Pigeon, 31–36 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open country with groves of trees and in cultivation

Breeding Period: January to May

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: Round the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Observed on overhead electric wires most of the time.

Laggar Falcon or Laggar

Falco jugger Gray, 1834

Synonym: *Falco biarmicus jugger*

Local Names: Lagad (Gujarati); Laggar, Jaggar (Hindi); Lagadu (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Kite, <43–46 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Dry open country and cultivation

Breeding Period: January to April

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: **India:** Assam, South India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Most of the time observed alone in all types of habitats.

Common Kestrel or Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Falco tinnunculus* [*tinnunculus* group]

Local Name: Moti larjee (Gujarati); Karontia, Khermutia, Narzinak – male, Narzi – female (Hindi); Thondala muchi gadda (Telugu); Cherupullu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±36 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Grassland, semi-desert, cultivation, and rocky areas

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 3–6

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in grassland.



Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Glareolidae

Cream-coloured Courser

Cursorius cursor (Latham, 1787)

Synonym: *Cursorius cursor cursor*

Local Name: Retal rann godhalo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Francolin, <25 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open dry, semi-desert country

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded on short grass beds around seasonal waterbodies in grassland.

Indian Courser

Cursorius coromandelicus (Gmelin, 1789)

Local Names: Badami rann godhalo (Gujarati); Nukri (Hindi); Thonth (Bihar); Yarra chitawa (Telugu); Allkatti (Tamil); Veli alappan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Francolin, <26 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry stony plains and fallow land

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded mostly in open areas in the grassland.

**Small Pratincole or
Small Indian Pratincole**

Glareola lactea Temminck, 1820

Local Names: Nanu tejpar (Gujarati); Chhota babuibatan (Bengal)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >17 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Large streams, marshes, and coastal swamps

Breeding Period: February to April

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

White-tailed Lapwing

Vanellus leucurus (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Synonyms: *Chettusia leucura*, *Chettusia leucurus*, *Vanellochettusia leucura*

Local Name: Savetpoonchh titodi (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Francolin, >28 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Gregarious in marshy area and jheel edges

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: North India, Gujarat, northern Madhya Pradesh

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Red-wattled Lapwing

Vanellus indicus (Boddaert, 1783)

Synonyms: *Hoplopterus indicus*, *Lobivanellus indicus*

Local Names: Titodi (Gujarati); Titeeri, Titi, Titori (Hindi); Hatatut, Hatatertu (Kashmir); Balighora, Tetatua (North-east India); Titwi (Marathi); Yennapa chitawa (Telugu); Allkati (Tamil); Chenkanni (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Francolin, >33 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Near water in open country and cultivation

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly observed in all types of habitats in Banni.

Yellow-wattled Lapwing

Vanellus malabaricus (Boddaert, 1783)

Synonyms: *Hoplopterus malabaricus*,
Lobipluvia malabarica

Local Names: Parasna titodi (Gujarati); Zirdi (Hindi); Laori (M.P.); Chitawa (Telugu); Allkatti (Tamil); Manjakkanni (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Francolin, >27 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Wasteland, stubble, and fallow fields in dry biotope

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Observed in all types of habitats.

Sociable Lapwing

Vanellus gregarius (Pallas, 1771)

Synonyms: *Chettusia gregaria*, *Chettusia gregarius*

Local Name: Maltavdi titodi (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Francolin, <27–30 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open grassland, wasteland, stubble, and fallow fields in dry biotope

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 5



Distribution: India: North-west India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Israel, Sudan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Critically Endangered

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Very Rare.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse or Indian Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus Temminck, 1825

Synonym: *Pterocles senegalensis*

Local Names: Deshi batavdo (Gujarati); Bhat teetar, Kuhar (Hindi); Pokurdee, Pokundi (Marathi); Kal gojal hakki (Kannada); Jam polanki (Telugu); Kal koudari (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±28 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Stony semi-desert and dry fallow land

Breeding Period: January to May

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all areas, very common on bushes.

Spotted Sandgrouse

Pterocles senegallus (Linnaeus, 1771)

Local Name: Kachchhi Batavdo (Kachchh-Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±32 cm

Habitat: Stony semi-desert and dry fallow land

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Breeding Period: January to April

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Afghanistan, Arabian countries, some parts of Europe

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded in most parts of Banni Grassland.

Painted Sandgrouse

Pterocles indicus (Gmelin, 1789)

Local Names: Rangin batavdo (Gujarati); Pahari bhat-teetar, Bhat-ban (Hindi); Gutila teetar (Uttar Pradesh); Kal gojal hakki (Karnataka)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, >28 cm

Habitat: Bare, stony plateau country

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Most of the time observed in groups in all parts of this grassland.

Order: Galliformes

Family: Phasianidae

Black Francolin

Francolinus francolinus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Local Names: Kalo tetar (Gujarati); Kala tectar (Hindi); Tetra, Kalo tetra (Garhwal)

Shape & Size: 34 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Aquatic bodies with tall grass, scrub and wet cultivation

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 6–8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Most individuals recorded in grasses and bushes.

Grey Francolin

Francolinus pondicerianus (Gmelin, 1789)

Synonym: *Francolinus pondericanus*

Local Names: Khadiya tetar ane tetar (Gujarati); Safed tetar (Hindi); Gowjal hakki (Kannada); Kawanga (Telugu); Kondari, Kauthari (Tamil); Kozhi kata (Malayalam); Chittur (Marathi)

Shape & Size: 33 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Thorn-scrub, dry jungle, cultivation

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 4–8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of landscape in Banni Grassland.

Order: Galliformes

Family: Phasianidae

Common Quail or Grey Quail

Coturnix coturnix (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Coturnix coturnix africana*,
Coturnix coturnix coturnix

Local Names: Moti lavri (Gujarati); Bater, Ghagus bater (Hindi); Bhatri (Bengal); Gundri (Orissa); Bota sorai (Assam); Gurganj (Maharashtra); Barli, Sipale hakki (Karnataka); Gogari yellich (Telugu); Kata (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Partridge, >20 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Grassland, agricultural land

Breeding Period: February to October

Clutch Size: 6–14



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common.

Rain Quail

Coturnix coromandelica (Gmelin, 1789)

Synonym: *Tetrao coromandelicus*

Local Names: Varsha lavri, Chinaga bater (Gujarati); China bater (north India); Kadai (Tamil); Chinna yellichu (Telugu); Kata (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Quail, >18 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Grassland and standing crops

Breeding Period: March to October

Clutch Size: 6–8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, North Myanmar, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common.

Order: Galliformes

Family: Phasianidae

Rock Bush-Quail

Perdica argoondab (Sykes, 1832)

Local Names: Vagdauv bhadkiyu (Gujarati); Lowwa (Hindi, Marathi); Kampa lawya (Kannada); Lawunka (Telugu); Sinna kadai (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Quail, >17 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Open semi-desert and thorn-scrub country

Breeding Period: Throughout the year

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Indian Peafowl or Common Peafowl

Pavo cristatus Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Mor – male, Dhel – female (Gujarati); Mor, Manjur, Mayura (Hindi); Mayur (Bengali); Mor – male, Landor – female (Maharashtra); Manja – male, Mania – female (Orissa); Moira (Assamese); Mayil (Malayalam, Tamil); Nemali (Telugu); Navilu (Kannada)

Shape & Size: Heron, Male 92–122 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Moist and dry deciduous forest, cultivation and in the vicinity of villages

Breeding Period: January to October

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule I Part-III

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found mostly in open areas; some individuals recorded in village areas.

Common Buttonquail or Common Bustard Quail

Turnix suscitator (Gmelin, 1789)

Synonym: *Turnix suscitator suscitator*

Local Names: Rakhodi pag bil bater (Gujarati); Sansorai (Assam); Gundra, Gundlu (Hindi); Gulu (Bengal); Kalada – male, Pured – female (Telugu); Ankadik – male, Kurungkadik – female (Tamil); Durwa (Maharashtra); Karechakki (Kannada)

Shape & Size: Quail, 15 cm in length

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Grassland, scrub jungle, and deciduous forest

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Common Crane

Grus grus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Samany kunj (Gujarati);
Kurunch (Hindi); Kudam (Andhra Pradesh)

Shape & Size: Vulture, standing ± 140 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Cultivated plains, reed, marshes, and
sandy riverbeds

Breeding Period: July to December

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: North-west India, West
Bengal, Maharashtra

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Observed in large flocks, most of
them recorded in *Suaeda* grasses.

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Gruidae

Sarus Crane

Grus antigone (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Saras (Gujarati, Hindi); Khur sang (Assamese)

Shape & Size: Vulture, 156 cm in height

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes and cultivation

Breeding Period: July to December

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Central and North-east India

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: In most of the observations, recorded in pairs in wet grasses.

Demoiselle Crane

Grus virgo (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Anthropoides virgo*

Local Names: Karkaro (Gujarati); Karkara (Hindi); Karkucha (Marathi); Kurra (Bihar); Garara (Orissa); Wada koraka (Telugu); Karkoncha (Kannada)

Shape & Size: Vulture, 76 cm in height

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Winter crops, paddy stubble, banks of water bodies

Breeding Period: July to December

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly recorded in flocks in open grassland.

Houbara Bustard or Macqueen's Bustard or Houbara

Chlamydotis undulata (Jacquin, 1784)

Synonyms: *Chlamydotis undulata undulata*,
Otis undulata

Local Names: Macqueenno ghorad
(Gujarati); Tiloor, Hobara, Obara (Punjab);
Tilor (Rajasthan); Siara tiloor (Kachchh)

Shape & Size: Village hen±, Male 73 cm,
Female 66 cm

Habitat: Sandy semi-desert

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Breeding Period: June to February

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Rajasthan, Gujarat,
Kashmir, Delhi, Kerala

Elsewhere: Baluchistan, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule I Part-III

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: A single individual recorded in
Banni Grassland in December 2010.

Rock Pigeon or Blue Rock Pigeon

Columba livia Gmelin, 1789

Local Names: Kabutar, Parevun (Gujarati); Kabutar (Hindi); Gola payra (Bengali); Peruwa (Jharkhand); Parva (Marathi); Mada pura, Malai pura (Tamil); Kutta pravu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, 33 cm in length

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Human habitation, cultivation

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitats in and around villages and cultivation.

Eurasian Collared-Dove or Ring Dove

Streptopelia decaocto (Frisvaldszky, 1838)

Local Names: Holo, Dhol (Gujarati); Parki, Panduk, Gugi (Hindi); Kukil (Kashmir); Doula (Bihar); Par ghughu (Bengal); Pitha hola, Kavda (Marathi); Pedda bella guwa (Telugu); Kalli pura (Tamil); Pottanchengali (Malayalam); Set kopu (Assam)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±32 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous plains with light jungle and cultivation

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all kinds of habitats.

Red Collared-Dove or Red Turtle-Dove

Streptopelia tranquebarica (Hermann, 1804)

Synonym: *Oenopopelia tranquebarica*

Local Names: Lotan holo (Gujarati); Lali pohu, Harua kopu (Assam); Gulabi ghughu, Ithuiya ghughu, Tuma khuri, Lal ghughu (Bengal)

Shape & Size: Myna, ±23 cm in length

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Deciduous scrub jungle, cultivation

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Indian sub-continent

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in groups of 2–3 individuals in all types of habitat.

Little Brown Dove or Laughing Dove

Streptopelia senegalensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonym: *Stigmatopelia senegalensis*

Local Names: Khumadi holi (Gujarati);
Chhota fakhta, Parki, Panduk (Hindi); Chitti
bellaguvva (Telugu); Touta pura (Tamil);
Aripravu (Malayalam); Ram kopu (Assam)

Shape & Size: Myna, <27 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous forests, arid areas

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Western India

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Most of the time observed in
Prosopis juliflora.

Spotted Dove

Spilopelia chinensis (Scopoli, 1768)

Synonyms: *Stigmatopelia chinensis*, *Streptopelia chinensis*

Local Names: Taliyo holo – male, Vana holi – female (Gujarati); Chitroka fakhta, Parki, Chitta, Panduk (Hindi); Chhite ghughu, Telia ghughu (Bengal); Tipkya kavda (Marathi); Chakkara kutta pravu, Aripjavu (Malayalam); Poda bellaguvva (Telugu); Pulli pura (Tamil); Pati kopu (Assam); Inruigu (Naga); Voh kurup (Kuki)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, <30 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous and moist deciduous forest areas

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2

Distribution: India: North-western parts of the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in *Prosopis juliflora* and in open grassland.



Rose-ringed Parakeet

Psittacula krameri (Scopoli, 1769)

Local Names: Popat, Sudo (Gujarati); Tota, Lybar tota (Hindi); Swa, Suva (Madhya Pradesh); Popat, Keera (Marathi); Chiluka (Telugu); Kili (Tamil); Tatta (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Myna+, overall 42 cm

Feeding Habit: Frugivorous

Habitat: Moist and dry deciduous forests, gardens, cultivation, human habitation

Breeding Period: February to April

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Usually recorded on overhead electric wires in groups of 2–7 individuals.

Pied Cuckoo or Pied Crested Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus (Boddaert, 1783)

Synonyms: *Clamator serratus*, *Oxylophus jacobinus*, *Oxylophus serratus*

Local Names: Chatak, Motido (Gujarati); Papiya, Kala papiya, Chatak (Hindi); Horkuk (Kashmir); Kala bulbul, Shah bulbul (Bengal); Chatak (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Myna, ±33 cm in length

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous and moist deciduous areas

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 1–2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: March to June

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae

Common Hawk-Cuckoo

Hierococyx varius (Vahl, 1797)

Synonym: *Cuculus varius*

Local Name: Bappieyo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, >34 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous and moist deciduous
lightly wooded country

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 1



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: March to June

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Common Cuckoo or The Cuckoo or Eurasian Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Pardeshi kuhukanth (Gujarati); Phuphu, Kupwah (Himachal Pradesh); Akku (Bhutea); Horkuk, Shakuk, Kuki (Kashmir)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±33 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Keeps to the tree canopy in well-wooded country

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: March to June

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Mostly recorded on bushes and in *Prosopis juliflora*.

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Cuculidae

Asian Koel

Eudynamys scolopacea (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Eudynamys scolopaceus* [*scolopaceus* group]

Local Names: Koyal (Gujarati); Koel (Hindi); Kokil, Kokila (Bengali, Marathi); Kovala (Telugu); Kuyil, Pullikuyil (Malayalam); Kuyil (Tamil)

Shape & Size: House Crow, >43 cm

Feeding Habit: Frugivorous

Habitat: Lightly wooded country and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed on *Prosopis juliflora*.



Sirkeer Malkoha or Sirkeer Cuckoo

Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii (Lesson, 1830)

Synonym: *Taccocua leschenaulti*

Local Names: Sirkeer (Gujarati); Sirkeer malkoha (Hindi); Chiluka (Telugu); Kalli kuyil (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: House Crow, >42 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Lightly wooded country and cultivation

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat.

Greater Coucal or Crow-Pheasant

Centropus sinensis (Stephens, 1815)

Synonym: *Centropus menbecki*

Local Names: Kukadiyo kumbhar, Hokko, Ghoyaro (Gujarati); Mahok (Hindi); Jemudu kaki (Telugu); Kalli kaka (Tamil); Uppan, Chemboth (Malayalam); Kumbhar kaola (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Jungle Crow, >48 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Deciduous scrub forest and gardens

Breeding Period: February to September

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly seen in grassland and on *Prosopis juliflora*.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba (Scopoli, 1769)

Synonym: *Tyto alba* [excluding *insularis* group]

Local Names: Revi devi (Gujarati); Kuraya, Karail, Buri churi (Hindi); Lakhi pecha (Bengal); Ghuvad (Marathi); Chavu kuruvi (Tamil); Chao pitta (Telugu); Veli moonga (Malayalam); Madoosa (Bihar); Ghughu (Madhya Pradesh)

Shape & Size: Jungle Crow, <36 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Buildings and wasteland

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 4–7

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae

Eurasian Eagle-Owl or Great Horned Owl

Bubo bubo (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Bubo bubo bubo*, *Bubo ignavus*,
Bubo maximus

Local Names: Moto ghuvad, Ghuvad
(Gujarati); Ghughu (Hindi); Hutom pecha
(Bengal); Ghubad (Marathi); Yerra gudla guba
(Telugu); Komban moonga (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Kite, <56 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Rocky hills, riverine patches, forest

Breeding Period: November to April

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Most of the sightings were in open grassland.

Spotted Owlet

Athene brama (Temminck, 1821)

Synonym: *Athene brahma*

Local Names: Chibari (Gujarati); Ullu, Khakusat, Khusattia, Chughad (Hindi); Pencha (Bihar); Kuture pencha (Bengal)

Shape & Size: Myna, ±21 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Ruins of buildings, mango trees, old trees

Breeding Period: November to April

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally recorded in *Prosopis juliflora* and *Prosopis cineraria*.

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Synonym: *Asio accipitrinus*

Local Names: Ravaeido ghuwad (Gujarati);
Poocha moonga (Malayalam); Aandai (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, >38 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open undulating grasslands, scrub,
marshes, plains and hills

Breeding Period: November to March

Clutch Size: 4–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Mostly observed in grasses and
bushes.

Eurasian Nightjar

Caprimulgus europaeus Linnaeus, 1758

Local Name: Shiyalu dashrathiyu (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Myna, 25–30 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open desert with a few trees or bushes

Breeding Period: February to September

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: West Asia, North Africa, Europe

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly seen in open dry grassland.

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Caprimulgidae

Indian Nightjar or Common Indian Nightjar

Caprimulgus asiaticus Latham, 1790

Local Names: Nanu dashrathiyu, Deshi
chhapo (Gujarati); Chapka (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Myna, ±24 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous scrub jungle

Breeding Period: February to September

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in bushes.

Savanna Nightjar or Franklin's Nightjar

Caprimulgus affinis Horsfield, 1821

Synonyms: *Caprimulgus monticolus*,
Caprimulgus affinis affinis

Local Names: Chabuk dashrathiyu (Gujarati);
Chhippak, Chhappa, Dabchiri (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Myna, >25 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Scrubby hillsides, light deciduous forest, and grassy jungle

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Apus melba*

Local Names: Pahadi ababil, Pahadi ababeelo (Gujarati); Badi ababeel (Hindi); Sarappakshi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, >22 cm

Habitat: High cliffs

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Plains and hills

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Little Swift or House Swift

Apus affinis (Gray, 1830)

Synonym: *Apus affinis*

Local Names: Moto ababil, Ababeelo (Gujarati); Ababeel, Babeela (Hindi); Pakoi (Marathi); Sarappakshi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Gregarious around buildings and cliffs

Breeding Period: February to September

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater or
Madagascar Bee-eater**

Merops persicus Pallas, 1773

Synonym: *Merops superciliosus persicus*

Local Names: Bada hajamda, Bhura galvalo patrango, Moto patrangiyi (Gujarati); Bada patringa (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, overall >31 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Near lakes, tanks, and sandy seashores

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: North-west India (Kachchh, Rajasthan)

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly recorded on overhead electric wires and *Prosopis juliflora*.

**Little Green Bee-eater or
Green Bee-eater or Small Bee-eater**

Merops orientalis Latham, 1802

Synonym: *Merops viridis*

Local Names: Nano patrango, Nano patrangiyu (Gujarati); Chhota hajamda (Kachchh); Patringa, Harial (Hindi); Banspati (Bengal); Tai lingi, Veda raghu, Patur, Pateri (Marathi); Chinna passeriki (Telugu); Veli tatta (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >21 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open country and cultivation

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 4–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all surveys in all types of grassland habitat.

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Coraciidae

European Roller

Coracias garrulus Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Kashmiri chas, Kashmiri nilkanth (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±31 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Wooded parkland, cultivation

Breeding Period: May to September

Clutch Size: 5–6



Distribution: India: Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: March to June

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Frequently seen on overhead electric wires, on top of houses and *Prosopis juliflora*.

Indian Roller

Coracias benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Coracias benghalensis benghalensis*

Local Names: Deshi nilkanth (Gujarati); Nilkanth (Hiindi); Tas, Chash (Marathi); Pala pitta (Telugu); Kattu kadei, Pal kuriwi (Tamil); Panamkakka (Malayalam); Panankadai (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±31 cm

Habitat: Open country, cultivation, gardens, thin deciduous forest

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: One of the abundant species of Banni Grassland, recorded in each survey.

Order: Upupiformes

Family: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe or Common Hoopoe

Upupa epops Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Upupa senegalensis*

Local Names: Ghanti tankno, Hudhud (Gujarati); Hudhud (Hindi, Marathi); Konda pitta (Telugu); Chaval kuruvi (Tamil); Uppooppan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Myna, >31 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open hillsides, cultivation, light forest, and human habitation

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 5–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: In most of the surveys recorded in open grassland.

Eurasian Wryneck or Wryneck

Jynx torquilla Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Doka mardi (Gujarati); Gardan eyengtha (Hindi); Meda nulingadu (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <19 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Thorn jungle, open deciduous scrub, cultivation

Breeding Period: May and June

Clutch Size: 6–8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker or Yellow-crowned Woodpecker

Dendrocopos mahrattensis (Latham, 1801)

Synonym: *Picooides mahrattensis*

Local Names: Kabro lakkadhod (Gujarati);
Katphora (Hindi); Vadrangi pitta (Telugu);
Maramkothi (Malayalam); Chitla katkola
(Madhya Pradesh); Kaudya sutar (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <18 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Semi-desert to moist deciduous
biotope

Breeding Period: January to May

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Indian Lark or Indian Bushlark or Red-winged Bush Lark

Mirafra erythroptera Blyth, 1845

Local Names: Aagiya agan (Gujarati); Aggiya (Hindi); Jhirjhira (Madhya Pradesh)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±14 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Sparse scrub jungle and fallow land at low elevations

Breeding Period: April to October

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly recorded in flocks on open grassland and *Suaeda* vegetation.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark or Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark

Eremopterix grisea (Scopoli, 1786)

Synonym: *Eremopterix griseus*

Local Names: Bhon chakli, Rakhodi bhonya chakli (Gujarati); Diyora, Duri, Fothauli, Deoli (Hindi); Math charai, Dhula chata (Bengali); Poti pichika, Piyada pichika (Telugu); Gotowli (Bihar); Vanampadi kuruvi (Tamil); Karimpandi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Sparse scrub wasteland, stubble, and ploughed fields

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly recorded in flocks on open grassland and *Suaeda* vegetation.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark or Blackcrowned Finch-Lark

Eremopterix nigriceps (Gould, 1839)

Synonyms: *Eremopterix nigriceps nigriceps*,
Eremopterix nigriceps affinis, *Eremopterix*
nigriceps melanauchen

Local Name: Shyamsir bhonya chakli
(Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry savanna, open stony scrub, and
bush plains

Breeding Period: More or less round the year

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Indian sub-continent, Arabian
countries, Europe, North Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Frequently observed in small flocks
in open grassland with *Suaeda* scrub.

Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark or Rufous-tailed Lark

Ammomanes phoenicurus (Franklin, 1831)

Synonyms: *Ammomanes phoenicura testacea*,
Ammomanes phoenicura phoenicura

Local Names: Khetariyo (Gujarati); Ambali
jori gadu, Dowa pitta (Telugu); Vanambadi
kurivi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±16 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open scrubby plains, hillocks, fallow
land, and cultivation

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Frequently observed in small flocks
in open grassland with *Suaeda* vegetation.

Greater Hoopoe-Lark or Large Desert Lark

Alaemon alaudipes (Desfontaines, 1789)

Synonym: *Alaemon alaudiceps*

Local Name: Rann chandul (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open stony scrub and bushy plains

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Africa,
Arabian Peninsula

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Alaudidae

Indian Short-toed Lark or Sand Lark

Calandrella raytal (Blyth, 1844)

Local Names: Ret chandul (Gujarati); Retal (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Sandy river banks and islets

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Frequently observed in open areas in Banni Grassland.

Crested Lark or Franklin's Crested Lark or Common Crested Lark

Galerida cristata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Galerida cristata* [*cristata* group]

Local Names: Moto chandul, Ghaghas chandul (Gujarati); Chandul (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >18 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Sandy semi-desert and cultivated plains

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found in small flocks in open areas and *Suaeda* vegetation.

Tawny Lark or Sykes' Crested Lark

Galerida deva (Sykes, 1832)

Local Names: Nano chandul (Gujarati);
Chandul (Hindi); Chinna chandul (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Stony, sparse scrub in plateau
country and dry cultivation

Breeding Period: March to September

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Rajasthan, North
Gujarat and Kachchh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found in small flocks in
open areas and *Suaeda* vegetation.

Singing Bushlark

Mirafra cantillans Blyth, 1845

Synonym: *Mirafra chenaiia schillingsi*

Local Names: Agan chandul (Gujarati);
Agan, Agin (Hindi); Burutta pitta, Agin pitta
(Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Grassland, fallow cultivation, and
sparse scrubby semi-desert

Breeding Period: March to September

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Eastern India, Kerala,
Kachchh

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in flocks in small bushes.

Dusky Crag Martin

Hirundo concolor Sykes, 1833

Synonyms: *Ptyonoprogne concolor*,
Ptyonoprocne concolor

Local Names: Nani ababil (Gujarati); Chatan
ababil (Hindi); Katrikappakshi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: In the vicinity of forts, old buildings

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly recorded in buildings in
villages.

Barn Swallow or Common Swallow

Hirundo rustica Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Chelidon erythrogastra*, *Hirundo erythrogaster*, *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Local Names: Shiyalu tarodiyu (Gujarati); Ababil (Hindi, Bengali); Katij (Kashmir); Adai kallan kuruvi (Tamil); Wana kovala (Telugu); Vayalkoti (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±18 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open cultivated country and around human settlements

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Observed in large flocks of 50–55 individuals on overhead electric wires.

Wire-tailed Swallow

Hirundo smithii Leach, 1818

Synonyms: *Hirundo smithi*, *Hirundo smithii smithii*

Local Names: Tarpoonchh tarodiyu (Gujarati); Ababil (Hindi, Bengali); Katij (Kashmir); Tam-padi (Tamil); Wana kovala (Telugu); Vayalkoti (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±14 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open, broken or cultivated country

Breeding Period: March to September

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in large flocks of 50–70 individuals on overhead electric wires.

Streak-throated Swallow

Hirundo fluvicola Blyth, 1855

Synonym: *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

Local Names: Bhekhad ababil, Nanu tarodiyu (Gujarati); Nahar ababil (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open country, cultivation, and around rivers and canals

Breeding Period: July to October

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: North India, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica Linnaeus, 1771

Synonym: *Cecropis daurica* [*daurica* group]

Local Names: Kenchi ababil, Kenchipoonchh tarodiyu (Gujarati); Masjid ababil (Hindi); Varayankatrika (Malayalam); Phairni (Kashmir)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±17 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open, broken or cultivated country

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in large flocks of 70–100 individuals in open areas and on overhead electric wires.

Bay-backed Shrike

Lanius vittatus Valenciennes, 1826

Local Names: Pachanak latoro (Gujarati); Pachanak (Hindi); Chhoto kilatora, Khayeri karkata (Bengali); Chinna bilinki, Venne dega (Telugu); Kichan kuruvi (Tamil); Asurakkili (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <18 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous open thorn-scrub jungle, outskirts of cultivation

Breeding Period: April to September

Clutch Size: 2–3

Distribution: India: North-west India, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in grasses, *Prosopis juliflora*, and open areas.



Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio Linnaeus, 1758

Local Name: Lalipith latoro (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <16–18 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous open thorn-scrub jungle

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Europe, western Asia, tropical Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly observed on *Prosopis juliflora*.

Rufous-tailed Shrike

Lanius isabellinus Hemprich & Ehrenberg,
1833

Synonym: *Lanius arenarius*

Local Name: Lal poonchh latoro (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <18 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open wooded country and
cultivation

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and grasslands.

Long-tailed Shrike or Rufous-backed Shrike

Lanius schach Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Lanius schach schach*

Local Names: Lambi poonchh latoro (Gujarati); Matiya latoro, Kajala latoro (Hindi); Majhla latoro (Madhya Pradesh); Yerra lilinchi (Telugu); Kattu kuruvi, Pey kuruvi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, >25 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Open wooded country and cultivation

Breeding Period: February to July

Clutch Size: 3–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and open grasslands.

Brown Shrike

Lanius cristatus Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Lanius cristatus cristatus*

Local Names: Badami latoro (Gujarati); Kerkheta (Hindi); Karkata (Bengali); Batte gadu, Batte kiriti gadu (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, ±19 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous and semi-evergreen scrub, and scattered bushes

Breeding Period: May or June

Clutch Size: 2–6

Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and open grasslands.



Southern Grey Shrike

Lanius meridionalis Temminck, 1820

Synonyms: *Lanius excubitor meridionalis*,
Lanius elegans, *Lanius elegans meridionalis*

Local Names: Dudhio or Moto latoro,
Dakshini rakhodi latoro (Gujarati); Dudiya
latora, Safed latoro, Bada latoro (Hindi);
Kachkacha, Anjana (Bengal); Pedda kiriti gadu
(Telugu)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, ±17 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous and semi-evergreen
scrub and scattered bushes

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Europe, Asia, North Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Observed on *Prosopis juliflora* and
open grasslands.

Black Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus Vieillot, 1817

Local Names: Kosita, Kalo koshi (Gujarati); Kanchh, Kalkanchh (Kachchh); Kolsa, Bhujanga, Kotwal (Hindi); Karanjua (Madhya Pradesh); Finga (Bengali); Pasala poli gadu (Telugu); Karuvattu vali (Tamil); Anaranchi (Malayalam); Chosia (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, >31 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open deciduous forest and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.



House Crow

Corvus splendens Vieillot, 1817

Local Names: Kagdo (Gujarati); Kowwa, Desi kowwa (Hindi); Kaola (Marathi); Kag, Kak (Bengali); Pat kaori (Assamese); Manchi kaki (Telugu); Nalla kaka (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, >43 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Human habitation, towns and cities

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found in human habitation.

Large-billed Crow or Jungle Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos Wagler, 1827

Synonym: *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Local Names: Girnari kagdo (Gujarati); Kala kowwa, Pahari kowwa, Jangli kowwa (Hindi); Kagh (Bihar); Dom kaola (Marathi); Mala kaki (Telugu); Andan kakai, Karung kakai (Tamil); Tonnan kakka, Veli kakka (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: House Crow, 48–50 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Wooded country and outskirts of towns and cities

Breeding Period: December to April

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

Common Raven

Corvus corax Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Mahakag (Gujarati); Domkak (Hindi); Doda kaang (Punjab)

Shape & Size: Kite, >69 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Near towns and villages, desert settlements, and semi-arid areas

Breeding Period: December to March

Clutch Size: 3–6



Distribution: India: Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Commonly recorded in human habitation.

Small Minivet

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonym: *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*

Local Names: Nano rajalal (Gujarati); Bulalchashm, Rajalal, Saheli (Hindi); Kunkumpu jitta (Telugu); Techinam (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Deciduous forest, open scrub, gardens

Breeding Period: February and September

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found inside the canopy of trees and in bushes.

White-bellied Minivet

Pericrocotus erythrogygius (Jerdon, 1840)

Synonym: *Pericrocotus erythrogygius erythrogygius*

Local Names: Savet petal rajalal, Kabao rajalal (Gujarati); Safed rajalal (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous forest and thorn-scrub

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Peninsular India, Bihar, Bengal

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern,

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

White-tailed Iora or Marshall's Iora

Aegithina nigrolutea (Marshall, 1876)

Local Names: Marshalni shobigi (Gujarati); Shaubeegi (Hindi); Fatik jal (Bengali); Barsat sorai (Assamese); Daotisha gurrmo gadeba (Assam); Ingaruina (Naga)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±14 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous scrub, thorn jungle, and groves

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Most of the sightings were in small or large bushes.

Brahminy Starling or Brahminy Myna

Sturnus pagodarum (Gmelin, 1789)

Synonyms: *Temenuchus pagodarum*, *Sturnia pagodarum*

Local Names: Shyamshir kabar (Gujarati); Popoya myna, Brahmini myna, Puhaiia (Hindi); Bamani myna, Harbola (Bengal); Pabiyapawi (Uttar Pradesh); Papata gorinki (Telugu); Papata pariki (Tamil); Karimtaichikkili (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Myna, <22 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Open deciduous and scrub forest, near cultivation and habitations

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found in areas near human habitation.

Rosy Starling or Rosy Pastor

Sturnus roseus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Pastor roseus*

Local Names: Gulabi vaiyu (Gujarati); Wyha, Waheeo, Wyho (Kachchh); Gulabi myna, Tilyar (Hindi); Lal myna (Bengal); Ganggoya (Bihar); Pariki pitta, Palisa (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Myna, ±23 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Open cultivation, grassland, and semi-desert

Breeding Period: May and June

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: North-west and South India, West Bengal, Andamans

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in large flocks on overhead electric wires.

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonyms: *Acridotheres griseus*, *Acridotheres tristis*, *Sturnus tristis*

Local Names: Kabar (Gujarati); Desi myna (Hindi); Hor (Kashmiri); Salik, Bhat salik (Bengali); Salik sorai, Ghor salika (Assamese); Bemni, Saloo (Jharkhand); Gulgul (Madhya Pradesh); Shale, Salonki (Marathi); Gorwantera (Kannada); Nahanavai (Tamil); Goranka (Telugu); Kavalamkili, Matatta (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, <23 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Neighbourhood of homesteads in villages and cities

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

Bank Myna

Acridotheres ginginianus (Latham, 1790)

Synonym: *Acridotheres gingianus*

Local Names: Shirajee kabar, Ghoda kabar (Gujarati); Ganga myna, Daryla myna (Hindi); Gang salik (Bengali); Barad myna (Bihar)

Shape & Size: Myna, <21 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Neighbourhood of human habitations

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Mostly found in human habitations and with herds of livestock.



Order: Passeriformes

Family: Hypocoliidae

Grey Hypocolius

Hypocolius ampelinus Bonaparte, 1850

Local Name: Maskati latoro (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: 19–21 cm

Habitat: Woodland and scrub in arid and semiarid regions, near desert, irrigated and cultivated areas with trees

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Breeding Period: June and July

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Western India

Elsewhere: Africa, Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern,

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

White-eared Bulbul or White-cheeked Bulbul

Pycnonotus leucotis (Gould, 1836)

Synonyms: *Pycnonotus leucogenys leucotis*,
Pycnonotus leucotis leucotis

Local Names: Savetkarn bulbul, Kanaru
bulbul (Gujarati); Jogido (Kachchh);
Kushandra (Punjab)

Shape & Size: Myna, <20 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open scrub, cultivation, and gardens

Breeding Period: March to September

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Western and Central
India

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat.

Red-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus cafer (Linnaeus, 1766)

Local Names: Hadiyo bulbul (Gujarati); Bulbul, Guldum (Hindi); Piglipitta (Telugu); Kondalati, Kondai kuruvi (Tamil); Nattu bulbul (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Myna, <20 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Cultivation and scrub

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat.

Zitting Cisticola or Streaked Fantail Warbler

Cisticola juncidis (Rafinesque, 1810)

Synonym: *Cisticola juncidus*

Local Names: Nani pantiktiki (Gujarati);
Ghas ki phutki, Ghas ki pitpiti (Hindi);
Khergusa, Tuntunia (Bihar); Yedrupitta
(Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <10 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Tall grass, paddy fields, dry grassland

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed on grasses,
bushes, and in open areas.

**Grey-breasted Prinia or Franklin's
Wren-Warbler or Franklin's Prinia**

Prinia hodgsonii Blyth, 1844

Synonym: *Prinia hodgsoni*

Local Names: Kathiyavadi fadakfutki
(Gujarati); Phutki (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <11 cm

Habitat: Scrub and grass jungle, undergrowth
in deciduous forest, mangrove swamps, reed
beds

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed on grasses,
bushes, and in open areas.

**Rufous-fronted Prinia or
Rufous-fronted Wren-Warbler**

Prinia buchanani Blyth, 1844

Local Names: Lalbhalni fudki, Lalbhal fadakfutki (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Arid scrub forest and grass patches in semi-desert areas

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: North-west India, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed on grasses, bushes, and in open areas.

Plain Prinia

Prinia inornata Sykes, 1832

Synonym: *Prinia subflava inornata*

Local Names: Pan fadakfutki (Gujarati);
Phutki (Hindi); Lota kun jitta (Telugu);
Chitakul (Madhya Pradesh)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Mixed thorn-scrub forest and tall
grass patches, cultivation

Breeding Period: March to September

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed in groups of
2–3 individuals in all types of habitat.

Jungle Prinia

Prinia sylvatica Jerdon, 1840

Local Names: Moti fadakfutki (Gujarati); Tot rungi (Hindi); Kenda lotakun jitta (Telugu); Chettolirivo (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Low bush jungle mixed with coarse grasses

Breeding Period: March to October

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed in groups of 2–3 individuals on grassy patches.

Ashy Prinia

Prinia socialis Sykes, 1832

Local Names: Rakhodi fadakfutki (Gujarati); Phutki, Kali phutki (Hindi); Katirkuruvi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Grassland, scrub, garden, and cultivation

Breeding Period: March to September

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally observed in groups of 4–5 individuals on grassy patches.

Graceful Prinia or Streaked Wren-Warbler

Prinia gracilis (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Synonyms: *Prinia gracilis gracilis*, *Prinia gracilis palaestinae*, *Prinia gracilis deltae*

Local Names: Vid fudki, Rann fadakfutki (Gujarati); Khar phutki (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Grass and scrub forest in sandy and semi-desert areas

Breeding Period: February to October

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

Common Tailorbird

Orthotomus sutorius (Pennant, 1769)

Synonyms: *Orthotomus sutorius guzuratus*,
Orthotomus sutorius luteus

Local Names: Tashko, Darjido (Gujarati);
Darzee, Phutki, Pidli (Hindi, Marathi); Likka
jitta (Telugu); Panakkuruvi (Malayalam);
Thaiyal chittu, Pon chittu (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Scrub country near cultivation,
gardens, and deciduous jungle

Breeding Period: April to September

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in
Banni Grassland.

Clamorous Reed Warbler or Indian Great Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus stentoreus (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

Synonyms: *Acrocephalus stentoreus stentoreus*,
Acrocephalus stentoreus levantinus

Local Names: Moto pan karkariyo, Pan tiktiki (Gujarati); Karkat, Korkuch (Kashmir); Bora jitti (Telugu); Kaitakkallan (Malayalam); Kosu kattai, Nunni chirai (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, ±19 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Bushes and shrubs around lakes, jheels, ponds, and canals

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 3–6

Distribution: India: Andamans, Kashmir, North India, West Bengal, Kerala

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Blyth's Reed-Warbler

Acrocephalus dumetorum Blyth, 1849

Synonyms: *Herbicola dumetorum*, *Notiocihla dumetora*

Local Names: Pan tiktiki, Nano pan karkariyo (Gujarati); Podna, Tiktiki (Hindi); Tikra (Bengali); Kumpa jitta (Telugu); Eetapolappan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <14 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Bushes, hedges, orchards, bamboo clumps, and agricultural fields

Breeding Period: September to April

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Paddyfield Warbler

Acrocephalus agricola (Jerdon, 1845)

Synonyms: *Acrocephalus agricola agricola*,
Notiocichla agricola, *Sollicitus agricola*

Local Names: Dangar karkariyo (Gujarati);
Yerra kumpa jitta (Telugu); Patakkuruvi
(Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Elephant grass, sugarcane, and wet
paddy cultivation

Breeding Period: October to March

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Kachchh

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded on grass patches in Banni
Grassland.

Booted Warbler

Hippolais caligata (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Synonyms: *Iduna caligata*, *Hippolais caligata caligata*

Local Name: Dangar karkariyo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Deciduous scrub jungle

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Eastern Ghats ranges

Elsewhere: Baluchistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat.

Yellow-eyed Babbler

Chrysomma sinense (Gmelin, 1789)

Local Names: Pili aankh lela (Gujarati);
Bulalchashm, Gulabchashm (Hindi); Yerra
kali jitta (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <18 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Scrub, thorn jungle, reed beds,
bamboo

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 4–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat.



Common Babbler

Turdoides caudatus (Dumont, 1823)

Synonyms: *Turdoides caudata caudata*,
Turdoides caudata eclipses

Local Names: Thoriyu lela, Sheradi
(Gujarati); Chilchil, Sor, Genga, Chhota
genga, Dumri (Hindi); Chinna sida (Telugu);
Huni (Tamil); Chilappan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, >23 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Thorn-scrub forest in semi-desert
and dry plains

Breeding Period: March and July

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Very common

Remarks: Found in all types of habitat in
Banni Grassland.

Large Grey Babbler

Turdoides malcolmi (Sykes, 1832)

Synonym: *Turdoides makomi*

Local Names: Laledo, Motu lela (Gujarati); Ghogoi, Ghaughai, Bhaina (Hindi); Gongya (Kannada); Kokatti, Khakta (Marathi); Verri chinda, Gowa sida (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Myna, >28 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry, open, sparse scrub country, thorn forest, and around cultivation

Breeding Period: More or less throughout the year

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally recorded among bushes.



Order: Passeriformes

Family: Silvidae

Jungle Babbler

Turdoides striatus (Dumont, 1823)

Synonyms: *Crateropus canorus*, *Turdoides striatus striatus*

Local Names: Van laledi (Gujarati); Sat bhai (Hindi); Kariyilakkili (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Myna, >25 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Deciduous and scrub forest, bamboo brakes, cultivation

Breeding Period: Throughout the year

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally recorded in grassy and bushy areas.



Orphean Warbler

Sylvia hortensis (Gmelin, 1789)

Synonyms: *Hortensis hortensis*, *Hortensis hortensis hortensis*, *Sylvia hortensis hortensis*, *Sylvia orphea orphea*

Local Names: Seetafutki, Moto shveta kanth (Gujarati); Pedda nalla kampa jitta (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Shrubs on stony slopes and semi-desert

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Bihar, Orissa, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.





Lesser Whitethroat or Common Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Curruca curruca*, *Sylvia carruca*,
Sylvia curraca, *Sylvia currura*

Local Names: Nano savetkanth (Gujarati);
Chinna nalla kampa jitta (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Scrub jungle and bushes in stony
semi-desert

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Kashmir, West Bengal,
North India

Elsewhere: Baluchistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in
Banni Grassland.

Common Whitethroat or Indian Whitethroat or Greater Whitethroat

Sylvia communis Latham, 1787

Synonym: *Communis communis*

Local Name: Divali savetkanth (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open country and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 3–7

Distribution: India: Gujarat, Rajasthan,
Punjab

Elsewhere: Europe, West Asia, Africa, Arabia,
Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat.



Desert Warbler

Sylvia nana (Ehrenberg, 1833)

Synonyms: *Atraphornis nana*, *Sylvia nana nana*

Local Name: Rann savetkanth (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <11–12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Shrubs on stony slopes and semi-desert

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Central and Western Asia, Europe

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally recorded in groups of 3–5 individuals in shrubby areas.

Common Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita (Vieillot, 1817)

Synonyms: *Phylloscopus tristis*, *Phylloscopus collybita collybita*, *Phylloscopus collybitus*

Local Name: Jal kitkit (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open country and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Southern and Western Europe, South Asia, North Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata (Pallas, 1764)

Local Name: Tapkilo makhimar (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±14 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Deciduous woodlands, parks and gardens

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Europe, West Asia, Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in small and medium sized trees and bushes in Banni Grassland.

Red-breasted Flycatcher or Red-throated Flycatcher

Ficedula parva (Bechstein, 1792)

Synonym: *Ficedula parva parva*

Local Names: Sifiya makhimar (Gujarati);
Turra (Hindi); Yeepidippan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <11–12 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Deciduous woodlands, especially
near water

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Europe, Asia

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found on small and
medium sized trees and bushes in Banni
Grassland.

Oriental Magpie-Robin

Copsychus saularis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Daiyad (Gujarati); Dhaiyal, Dhaiyar (Hindi, Bengali); Dominga (Marathi); Kali sooi chiria (Madhya Pradesh); Pedda nalanchi, Sarela gadu (Telugu); Hatiure, Deyalo (Jharkhand)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, ±20 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry and moist deciduous forest, secondary jungle and near human habitations

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat in Banni Grassland.

Bluethroat

Luscinia svecica (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Cyanecula svecica*, *Cyanosylvia svecica*, *Cyanosylvia svecica*, *Erithacus svecica*, *Erithacus svecicus*, *Erithacus svecius*, *Luscinia svecicus*

Local Names: Nilkanthi lusiniya (Gujarati); Nyul hot (Kashmir); Nilkanthi, Hussaini pidda (Hindi); Gunpigera, Gurpeorah (West Bengal)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Agricultural fields, grassland, reeds, bushes near water, gardens, fallow fields

Breeding Period: June to July

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Generally found singly or in groups of up to 3 individuals on *Prosopis juliflora* and grass beds.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros (Gmelin, 1774)

Local Names: Kalo thartharo (Gujarati); Thirthira, Thirthir kampa (Hindi); Phirira, Lal girdi (Bengali); Nune bundi gadu (Telugu); Kankal (Mundari)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Stony, sparse, scrubby broken country, and near cultivation and villages

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Plains and hills

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally found singly or in pairs on *Prosopis juliflora* and on grassy patches.

Pied Bushchat

Saxicola caprata (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonyms: *Saxicola aethiops*, *Saxicola caprata caprata*

Local Names: Kabaro piddo (Gujarati);
Kumpa nalanchi (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Cultivated fields, sparsely scrubby hillsides, tamarisk, reeds, coarse grasses near water and cultivation

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Plains and hilly areas

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Generally found singly or in pairs on *Prosopis juliflora* and grassbeds.

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae

Common Stone Chat or Collared Bushchat

Saxicola torquatus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonyms: *Saxicola axillaris*, *Saxicola torquata*

Local Name: Mediyo piddo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry, scrub-covered hillsides, wasteland, fallow fields, tamarisk jungle

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 4–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally recorded solitarily in grass and hedges.

**Stoliczka's Bushchat or
White-browed Bushchat**

Saxicola macrorhynchus (Stoliczka, 1872)

Synonym: *Saxicola macrorhyncha*

Local Name: Rann piddo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Semi-arid areas

Breeding Period: February to May

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: North-west India, Goa, Pune (Maharashtra)

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Afghanistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae

Isabelline Wheatear or Isabelline Chat

Oenanthe isabellina (Temminck, 1829)

Local Names: Pilo piddo, Ujalo piddo
(Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Sandy semi-desert and wasteland

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 5



Distribution: India: Western India, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all types of habitat.

Kurdish Wheatear or Rufous-tailed Chat

Oenanthe xanthopyrma (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

Synonyms: *Oenanthe chrysopygia*, *Oenanthe xanthopyrma xanthopyrma*

Local Name: Lalpoonchh piddo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±14 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Sandy semi-desert and wasteland

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Gujarat, Rajasthan

Elsewhere: Turkey, Iran, Arabian Peninsula, Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: July to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found on *Prosopis juliflora* and other thorny trees.

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Muscicapidae

Desert Wheatear

Oenanthe deserti (Temminck, 1825)

Local Names: Rann piddo, Shyam kanth rann piddo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Arid, semi-desert broken tracts, and canal-irrigated desert cultivation

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 4–6

Distribution: India: Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh

Elsewhere: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Baluchistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally solitary individuals found on grass beds, open areas, and on *Prosopis juliflora*.



Variable Wheatear or Pied Chat

Oenanthe picata (Blyth, 1847)

Local Name: Striklandno piddo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Hot desert

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 4–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Europe

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally recorded solitarily in grass beds, open areas, and on *Prosopis juliflora*.



Indian Robin

Saxicoloides fulicata (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonyms: *Copsychus fulicatus*, *Saxicoloides fulicata fulicata*

Local Names: Kali deva, Deoli (Gujarati); Kalchuri (Hindi); Dachko (Bhil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±16 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Arid and stony country, semi-desert with scattered bushes, cultivation, and around habitations

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all parts of Banni Grassland.

**White-naped Tit or
White-winged Black Tit or Pied Tit**

Parus nuchalis Jerdon, 1845

Local Names: Kabari ramachakli (Gujarati);
Nalla patsa jitta (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <13 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Hummocky semi-desert country

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Gujarat, Rajasthan,
Eastern Ghats, Karnataka

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Single individual recorded once on
grass bed in Banni Grassland.

Purple Sunbird

Nectarinia asiatica (Latham, 1790)

Synonym: *Cinnyris asiaticus*

Local Names: Phul chakli, Jambali sakkarkhoro (Gujarati); Kala pidda (Punjab); Shakarkhara, Phool sungni (Urdu, Hindi); Jugi jugi (Bihar); Sue (Jharkhand); Chumka (Marathi); Karupan tenkili (Malayalam); Thena pitta (Telugu); Then kudi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <10 cm

Feeding Habit: Nectarivorous

Habitat: Light deciduous or dry thorn forest, cultivation, gardens, and compounds

Breeding Period: March to May

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally recorded in dense *Prosopis juliflora* and grasslands of Banni.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Passer italiae*

Local Names: Chakli (Gujarati); Churi, Khas churi, Gauriya (Hindi, Urdu); Choti charai (West Bengal); Ghor charika (Assam); Sendang (Manipur); Kuruvi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <15 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Ubiquitous commensal of man in cities, suburbs, and villages

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Found all over the grassland, the majority found in human habitation.



Chestnut-shouldered Petronia or Yellow-throated Sparrow

Petronia xanthocollis (Burton, 1838)

Synonyms: *Gymnoris xanthocollis*, *Petronia xanthosterna*

Local Names: Pahalvan chakli, Raji (Gujarati); Raji, Jangli chiria (Hindi); Ban chiria (Bengali); Maharaoi, Daidem (Jharkhand); Konde pichike, Cheuka pichike (Telugu); Manjatali (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <14 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Dry deciduous forest, scrub and thorn forest, groves, and cultivation

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Tawny Pipit

Anthus campestris (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Agrodroma campestris*

Local Name: Vagdauw dhanchidi (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >16 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Dry open country including semi-desert

Breeding Period: February to June

Clutch Size: 4–6

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Europe, Asia, Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 2–5 individuals on *Prosopis juliflora* and grasses.



Paddyfield Pipit

Anthus rufulus Vieillot, 1818

Synonym: *Anthus novaeseelandiae rufulus*

Local Names: Vid dhanchidi (Gujarati); Rugail, Charchari (Hindi); Serwi, Chanchir (Jharkhand); Gurapa modi pitta (Telugu); Pulla purake, Netti kali (Tamil); Chatuppan, Varamban (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Grassland, stubble fields, fallow and marshy ground

Breeding Period: February to October

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 2–5 individuals on *Prosopis juliflora* and grasses.

Long-billed Pipit or Brown Rock Pipit

Anthus similis Jerdon, 1840

Synonym: *Anthus bannermani*

Local Name: Moti dhanchidi (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, ±20 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Grassy slopes and plains, sparse scrub country, fallow land, sand dunes

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Western India, Deccan plateau, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Bhura mathano pilakyo, Rakhodi pilakyo, Matano pilakyo (Gujarati); Pilkya (Hindi); Charattalayan valkuluki (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±17 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Pastures, wet paddy stubble, and wetlands

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4–8



Distribution: India: Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on the fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.

Citrine Wagtail or Yellowheaded Wagtail

Motacilla citreola Pallas, 1776

Synonyms: *Budytes citreola*, *Motacila citreola*,
Motacilla citrinella

Local Names: Pitshir pilakiyo (Gujarati);
Pilkya, Pani ka pilkya (Hindi); Tooni (Assam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±17 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Marshes, irrigated paddy fields

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in grass patches around fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.



Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea Tunstall, 1771

Synonyms: *Calobates cinerea*, *Motacila cinerea*,
Motacilla boarula, *Motacilla caspica*

Local Names: Van pilakiyo (Gujarati);
Khak dobbai (Kashmir); Balkatara (Punjab);
Halidiya balimahi (Assam); Mudi tippudu jitta
(Telugu); Valukulukki (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ± 17 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Along clear mountain streams with
rocky banks and boulders

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4–6

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in grass patches around
fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.

White Wagtail or Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Motacilla lugens*

Local Names: Diwali ghodo, Khatriani (Gujarati); Peenchkani, Dobbai (Kashmir); Balkatara (Punjab); Dhoban (Hindi); Khanjan (Jharkhand, West Bengal); Balimati, Tiposi (Assam); Vella valkulukki (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Bulbul, <18 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Open country in the vicinity of watercourses, reservoirs, paddy cultivation

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4–6

Distribution: India: North-western and eastern India

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in grassland around the fringes of seasonal and perennial water bodies.



Baya Weaver

Ploceus philippinus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Local Names: Sughari (Gujarati); Baya, Sonchiri (Hindi); Bijra (Uttar Pradesh); Suyam (Jharkhand); Babui (Bengali); Parsupu pita (Telugu); Thonga nathan, Thukanan kuruvi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Grassland and scrubland with Acacia species.

Breeding Period: May to September

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Common in all terrestrial habitats in Banni Grassland.

Streaked Weaver

Ploceus manyar (Horsfield, 1821)

Local Names: Litivali sughari (Gujarati); Teliya baya, Bamani baya (Hindi); Tite babui (Bengali); Attakuruvi, Kayatatta (Malayalam); Thukanan kuruvi, Manja kuruvi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Swampy reed beds in cultivated land or wetland

Breeding Period: February to September

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



White-throated Munia or Indian Silverbill

Lonchura malabarica (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Euodice malabarica*

Local Names: Tapushiyu, Pavai munia (Gujarati); Charchara, Charga, Pidda (Hindi); Piduri, Sar munia (Bengali); Jinuwayi (Telugu); Vayalatta (Malayalam); Nellu kuruwi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <10 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Dry, open cultivated, sparse scrub and bush country

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 4–6

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in groups of 3–4 individuals on bushes.



Black-headed Bunting

Emberiza melanocephala Scopoli, 1769

Synonym: *Granativora melanocephala*

Local Names: Shyamsir gandam (Gujarati); Gandam (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >18 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Cereal cultivation

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 5

Distribution: India: North, West, and Central India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Grey-necked Bunting

Emberiza buchanani Blyth, 1844

Synonym: *Glycispina buchanani*

Local Names: Patharal gandam, Thoriyo gandam (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >17 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Grassland, weedy or stubbly fields

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Iran, Russia

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found on grasses and bushes.

House Bunting or Striolated Bunting

Emberiza striolata (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Synonym: *Emberiza striolata* [striolata group]

Local Name: Laheriyo gandam (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <14 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Hillsides with rocky or stony sparse scrub

Breeding Period: February to November

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: North, West, and Central India

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found in grasses and bushes.





Birds of
Banni Grassland

Aquatic Birds

Greylag Goose

Anser anser (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Gaj hans (Gujarati); Raj hans (Hindi, Bengali, North-eastern states)

Shape & Size: Duck, >81 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Gregarious in jheels and rivers

Breeding Period: July to October

Clutch Size: 6–10



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies in groups of 15–30 individuals.

Lesser Whistling-Duck or Lesser Whistling Teal

Dendrocygna javanica (Horsfield, 1821)

Local Names: Nani sisoti batak, Nani sisoti (Gujarati); Seelhi, Seelkahi (Hindi); Sharal (Bengali); Horali (Assamese); Chilli thara (Tamil); Yeranda (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Duck, <42 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, reservoirs, reedy ponds

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 7–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies located in dense grassland.

Ruddy Shelduck or Brahminy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea (Pallas, 1764)

Synonyms: *Casarca casarca*, *Casarca ferruginea*

Local Names: Bhagvi surkhab (Gujarati); Chakva – male, Chakvi – female, Surkhab, Lal (Hindi); Chaka-chaki (West Bengal); Chakoi-chakoua (Assam); Panda hansa (Orissa); Sarza, Chakravak (Marathi); Bapana chiluwa (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Duck, >66 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Lakes and rivers

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 6–10



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Marbled Teal

Marmaronetta angustirostris (Menetries, 1832)

Synonyms: *Anas angustirostris*,
Marmaronetta angustirostris

Local Name: Chamkili murghabi (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Duck, <48 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Reedy jheels

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 9–12



Distribution: India: North-east India, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded in Chhari Dhandh and Lakhara wetland in Banni Grassland.

Northern Pintail

Anas acuta Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Anas acuta acuta*, *Dafila acuta acuta*

Local Names: Singpar (Gujarati); Dhruguchho (Kachchh); Sand, Seenkhpar (Hindi); Dig hans, Bada digar, Sholoncho (West Bengal); Dighonch (Bihar); Nanda, Nanja (Orissa); Markalian (Tamil); Nejal hans, Dighal negi (Assam); Meitunga (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, <56–74 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Reedy jheels, brackish lagoons, and estuaries

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 7–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Common Teal

Anas crecca Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Anas crecca crecca*, *Anas crecca nimia*, *Nettion crecca*, *Nettion crecca crecca*

Local Names: Nani murghabi (Gujarati); Chhoti murghabi, Patari, (Hindi); Naroib, Patari hans, Tulsibigri (West Bengal); Baijla (Bihar); Chakrang (Marathi); Siravi, Kilawai (Tamil); Solari hakki (Kannada); Kalimari, Chila hans, Patari hans (Assam); Surit (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, ±38 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Jheels and marshes

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 7–10



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Western Spot-billed Duck or Spot-billed Duck

Anas poecilorhyncha Forster, 1781

Synonym: *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha*

Local Names: Tilavali batak (Gujarati);
Garpai, Gugral (Hindi); Laddim (Bihar);
Kara (Manipur); Bor mughhi hans (Assam)

Shape & Size: Duck, ±61 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Shallow lakes and reservoirs

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 6–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies
of Banni Grassland.

Gadwall

Anas strepera Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Anas strepera strepera*,
Chaulelasmus streperus, *Mareca strepera*

Local Names: Luhar batak (Gujarati); Maila, Bhuar, Beykhur (Hindi); Peeing hans (West Bengal); Maila (Bihar); Saru mugi hans (Assam); Thoidingnam (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, <51 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Reedy marshes

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 6–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Northern Europe, Asia

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Eurasian Wigeon or Wigeon

Anas penelope Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Mareca penelope*

Local Names: Piyasan, Pharao (Gujarat, Nal Sarovar); Peasan, Patari, Pharia, Chhota lalsir (Hindi); Chhota lalsir (West Bengal); Aroon (Bihar); Khaltriya kunda (Assam)

Shape & Size: Duck, <49 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Reedy marshes

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 6–10



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Garganey

Anas querquedula Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Querquedula querquedula*

Local Names: Chetva, Kardio (Gujarat);
Chaita, Khira, Patari (Hindi); Ghang roib,
Giria hans (West Bengal); Ghila hans (Assam);
Gendu (Orissa); Surit angouba (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, <41 cm

Feeding Habit: Granivorous

Habitat: Marshes, reservoirs, and lakes

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 6–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Northern Shoveler or Shoveler

Anas clypeata Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Anas spathula*, *Spatula clypeata*

Local Names: Gaino (Gujarat, Nal Sarovar); Phatphaje (Kachchh); Tidari, Punana, Tokarwala, Ghirah (Hindi); Panta mukhi, Khunte hans (West Bengal); Sankhar (Bihar); Khantiya hans, Nak dungara (Assam); Mattimikh cherevi (Tamil); Khara (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, <51 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Inland waters

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 7–16



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.



Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina (Pallas, 1773)

Synonym: *Rhodonessa rufina*

Local Names: Lal chanch karchiya, Ratobari (Gujarat); Lalchonch, Lalsir (Hindi); Bada rangamuri, Chobra hans (West Bengal); Doommer (Bihar); Deo hans (Assam); Irupi (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, <54 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Large lakes and reservoirs

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 6–12

Distribution: India: North-west India, Assam, Tamil Nadu

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Common Pochard

Aythya ferina (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Aristonetta ferina*, *Nyroca ferina*

Local Names: Rakhodi karchiyo, Tarandio (Gujarati); Lalsir (Hindi); Lal muri (Bengali); Ranga muriya (Assamese); Irupi (Manipuri)

Shape & Size: Duck, <48 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Open jheels and reservoirs

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 8–12



Distribution: India: North-west India, North-east India, Karnataka, Pondicherry

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Tufted Duck or Tufted Pochard

Aythya fuligula (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Nyroca fuligula*

Local Names: Chotili kabri batak, Kalwelio (Gujarat); Dubaru, Ablak, Rahvara (Hindi); Kurungalian (Tamil); Nalla chiluwa (Telugu); Bamuniya hans (West Bengal, Assam)

Shape & Size: Duck, <46 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Open lakes and reservoirs

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 7–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded on most of the water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Cotton Teal

Nettapus coromandelianus (Gmelin, 1789)

Local Names: Kapasi murghabi (Gujarati); Girri, Girria, Girja, Gurgura (Hindi); Bali hans (West Bengal); Dandana (Orissa); Ade, Atla (Maharashtra); Keeke, Chuwa (Assam)

Shape & Size: Partridge, ±33 cm

Feeding Habit: Insectivorous

Habitat: Jheels and ponds

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 6–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Comb Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos (Pennant, 1769)

Synonyms: *Sarkidornis melanotos*, *Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos*

Local Names: Nakto (Gujarati); Nakta (Hindi, West Bengal); Nakwa (Bihar); Naki hansa (Orissa); Juttu chiluwa (Telugu); Doda sarle hakki (Kannada); Mookkan thara (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Duck, >76 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Reedy water bodies in well-wooded plains

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 8–12

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found on all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Pied Kingfisher or Lesser Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Kabro kalkaliyo (Gujarati); Kirkiria (Kachchh); Koryala kilkila (Hindi); Karona (Bihar); Chitla kilkila (Madhya Pradesh); Phatka machhranga, Karikata (West Bengal); Sufaid tont, Duddru (Kashmir); Meenkotti (Tamil); Ngarakpi, Wakrek (Manipuri)

Shape & Size: Myna, >31 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Stagnant water, jheels, reservoirs, ditches, and slow streams

Breeding Period: May and October

Clutch Size: 5–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally recorded on trees around water bodies.

Common Kingfisher or Small Blue Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Nano kalkaliyo (Gujarati); Chhota kilkila, Nita or Nika machhrala (Hindi); Kola tonth, Chhota tont, Tuntu (Kashmiri)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, >18 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Along streams, canals, ponds, mangrove swamps, and seashore

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 5–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in the vicinity of all water bodies.

White-throated Kingfisher or White-breasted Kingfisher

Halcyon smyrnensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Kalkaliyo, Savet kanth
kalkaliyo (Gujarati); Kilkila, Kourilla (Hindi);
Tanki (Bihar); Sandabuk machhranga (West
Bengal); Lali mach sorai (Assam); Khandya
(Marathi); Lakmuka, Buchegadu (Telugu);
Vichuli, Meenkotti (Tamil); Ponman
(Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Myna, >28 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Canals, streams, reservoirs,
cultivation, and edges of forest away from
water

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 4–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded singly or in pairs on
Prosopis juliflora and overhead electric wires.

White-breasted Waterhen

Amaurornis phoenicurus (Pennant, 1769)

Synonym: *Amaurornis phoenicurus chinensis*

Local Names: Safed chhati santakukdi, Davak (Gujarati); Davak, Dahak, Dauk (Hindi); Panpaira (West Bengal); Kinati (Uttar Pradesh); Ban murghi (Bihar); Jal murghi (Madhya Pradesh); Kuku kombdi (Marathi); Pani duboi (Assam); Kula kozhi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Partridge, ±32 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, ponds, and paddy fields

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 6–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Normally found in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Watercock

Gallicrex cinerea (Gmelin, 1789)

Synonyms: *Fulica cinerea*, *Gallicrex cinerea cinerea*

Local Names: Jal murgho (Gujarati); Kora, Kangra (Hindi); Toobka, Kora (Bihar); Kora, Jal morag (West Bengal); Khora sorai (Assam); Utum (Manipur); Tannir kozhi (Tamil); Thepporikkannan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Partridge, Male >43 cm, Female 36 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, ponds, and paddy fields

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 3–6, up to 8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.

Purple Swamphen or Purple Moorhen

Porphyrio porphyrio (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Nil jal murgho, Neel kukadi (Gujarati); Kaim kharim, Kalim, Khima (Hindi); Kaim, Kam pakhi (West Bengal); Wan tech (Kashmir); Korma (Bihar); Kham charai (Assam); Umu (Manipur); Nila bolli kodi (Telugu); Neela kozhi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Village hen, ±43 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshy reed beds, flooded paddy fields

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 3–7



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all marshy areas in groups of 3–6 individuals.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Gallinula chloropus* [*chloropus* group]

Local Names: Jal kukadi (Gujarati); Jal mурghi, Pani mурghi (Hindi); Tech (Kashmiri); Bodor (Bihar); Jal mурgi, Dakab paira (West Bengal); Jumbu kodi, Bolli kodi (Telugu); Paat uren (Manipur); Kanan koli (Tamil); Patta kozhi (Malayalam); Pan kombdi (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Partridge, >32 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Jheels, marshes, and ponds

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 5–12



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all small and large water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Common Coot

Fulica atra Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Bhagatdu, Aad, Dasadi (Gujarati); Kokdi (Kachchh); Dasari, Aari, Khuskul, Thekari (Hindi); Karandab, Jal kukkut (West Bengal); Kesrar, Serar (Bihar); Bolli kodi (Telugu); Kaam, Poonaar (Marathi); Kolur, Kolru (Kashmir); Nganu porom (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Duck, ±42 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Large jheels, lakes, and reservoirs

Breeding Period: July to August

Clutch Size: 6–10



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all annual and perennial water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Chotili moti dubki (Gujarati);
Shivahans (North-east India)

Shape & Size: Duck, 50 cm in length

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Lakes and littoral waters

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat

Elsewhere: Baluchistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in all small and large water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis Brehm, 1831

Synonyms: *Colymbus caspicus*, *Colymbus nigricollis*, *Podiceps caspicus*

Local Name: Shyam-griva dubki (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Duck, 28–34 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Jheels and littoral waters

Breeding Period: June to October

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly found in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Little Grebe or Dabchick

Tachybaptus ruficollis (Pallas, 1764)

Synonyms: *Tachybaptus ruficollis*,
Tachybaptus ruficollis [*ruficollis* group]

Local Names: Nani dubki (Gujarati);
Pandubi, Pantiri, Dubdubi, Churaka (Hindi);
Dubdubi, Pandubi, Duburi (West Bengal);
Munu gudi kodi (Telugu); Mukkulippan,
Tanni pullu (Tamil); Pind (Kashmir)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, ±23 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Water tanks and ponds

Breeding Period: April to October

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Commonly recorded in small and
large water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Great White Pelican or Rosy Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Pelecanus onocrotalus roseus*,
Pelecanus roseus

Local Names: Gulabi pen (Gujarati);
Havasil (Hindi); Gorapullo (West Bengal);
Chinkabatu (Telugu); Deohans (Assamese);
Kulakeda (Tamil); Kotumpannom
(Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Vulture, >183 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Jheels and lagoons

Breeding Period: February to April

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: North, West, and
Central India

Elsewhere: Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on all water bodies in
Banni Grassland in groups of 6–8 individuals.



Dalmatian Pelican

Pelecanus crispus Bruch, 1832

Local Names: Chotili pen (Gujarati); Pen (Kachchh); Havaso, Havasil, Lorer (Hindi); Bellua, Birva (Bihar); Ganggoya, Garapolo (West Bengal); Chikabatu (Telugu); Deohans, Bhela (Assam); Uphong (Manipur); Kulakeda (Tamil); Kotumpannom (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Vulture, 160–180 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Large lakes and rivers

Breeding Period: November to April

Clutch Size: 3

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Vulnerable

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 5–8 individuals.



Spot-billed Pelican

Pelecanus philippensis Gmelin, 1789

Local Names: Rooperi pen (Gujarati); Pen (Kachchh, Sind); Havaso; Havasil, Lorer (Hindi); Bellua, Birva or Bheerva (Bihar); Ganggoya, Gaganber, Garapolo or Gorapullo (West Bengal); Chikabatu (Telugu); Deohans, Dhera, Bhela (Assam); Uphong (Manipur); Pas boruwa, Pasbara (Sinhala); Kulakeda (Tamil); Kotumpannom (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Vulture, >152 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Large lakes and rivers

Breeding Period: November to April

Clutch Size: 3

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 5–8 individuals.

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*

Local Names: Moto kajeeyo (Gujarati);
Pankowwa (Hindi); Pani kaori (Assamese);
Pankawri (Bengal); Bonta kaki (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Duck, >80 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Inland water and tidal lagoons

Breeding Period: September to February

Clutch Size: 3–5, sometimes 6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies in
Banni Grassland.

Indian Cormorant or Indian Shag

Phalacrocorax fuscicollis Stephens, 1826

Synonym: *Hypoleucos fuscicollis*

Local Names: Vachet kajeeyo (Gujarati); Pankowwa, Jograbi, Ganhill (Hindi); Pani kaori (Assamese); Pankawri (Bengali); Neetikaki, Bontakaki (Telugu); Kadal kagam, Neer kagam (Tamil); Diya kawa (Sinhala); Kakataravu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Duck, >63 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Jheels, rivers, reservoirs, and estuaries

Breeding Period: July to February

Clutch Size: 3–6

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Not recorded

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 10–15 individuals.



Little Cormorant

Phalacrocorax niger (Vieillot, 1817)

Synonyms: *Microcarbo niger*, *Haliastur niger*

Local Names: Nano kajeeyo (Gujarati);
Pankowwa, Jograbi, Ganhill (Hindi);
Pankawri (West Bengal); Neetikaki (Telugu);
Kadal kagam, Neer kagam (Tamil);
Kakataravu (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Crow, >51 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Found on all inland water bodies

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland in groups of 10–15 individuals.

Darter or Oriental Darter or Snakebird

Anhinga melanogaster Pennant, 1769

Synonym: *Anhinga melanogaster melanogaster*

Local Names: Sarpgriv (Gujarati); Panva, Pandubi, Banbe (Hindi); Goyar (West Bengal); Pamubatu (Telugu); Pambuttara (Tamil); Maniori, Begiagir (Assam)

Shape & Size: Duck, >90 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Lakes and reservoirs

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in small and large water bodies and their vicinity.



Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Ardea cinerea monicae*, *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Local Names: Kaboot baglo (Gujarati); Nari, Kabud, Anjan, Sain (Hindi); Khyra (Bihar); Sada kank or Kank, Anjan (West Bengal); Brag (Kashmir); Nazayana pachchi (Telugu); Narai, Sambal narai (Tamil); Charamunti (Malayalam); Kudal (Maharashtra)

Shape & Size: Vulture, >98 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Swamps, estuaries, and rocky offshore habitats

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 3–6



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies singly or in pairs.



Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea Linnaeus, 1766

Synonyms: *Ardea bournei*, *Ardea purpurea purpurea*

Local Names: Nadi baglo (Gujarati); Lal anjan (Hindi); Lal kank (Bengali); Lalkol (Assamese); Yerra narayana tella kongga (Telugu); Peria vellai kokku (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Vulture, >97 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Jheels, reedy lakes, and rivers

Breeding Period: June to March

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies singly or in twos.

Little Heron or Little Green Heron

Butorides striatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Ardea striatus*

Local Names: Lili bagli (Gujarati); Kancha bagla (Hindi); Kana bak (West Bengal); Kona moochree (Assam); Dosi kongra (Telugu); Doshi kokku (Tamil); Chinna kokku (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Heron, ±46 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Inland waters and swamps

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies in groups of 2–4 individuals.



Indian Pond-Heron

Ardeola grayii (Sykes, 1832)

Local Names: Kani bagli (Gujarati); Bagla, Andha bagla, Khunch bagla (Hindi); Konch bak (West Bengal); Bogli (Bihar); Kulathu kokku, Madai katan (Tamil); Guddi kongga (Telugu); Broku (Kashmir); Kulamuti (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Heron, >46 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, streams, paddy fields, and ponds

Breeding Period: May to September

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in trees and bushes on the periphery of water bodies.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Ardea ibis*, *Egretta ibis*, *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

Local Names: Dhor baglo (Gujarati); Surkhia bagla, Badami bagla, Doria bagla (Hindi); Gai bak (West Bengal); Samti kongga (Telugu); Unni kokku (Tamil); Jobogali (Assam); Gai Bagla (Marathi); San dung il (Manipur); Kalikunti (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Heron, ±51 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Gregarious in grassland and agriculture

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland, associated with livestock, singly or in groups of 8–10 individuals.

Large Egret

Casmerodius albus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Egretta alba*, *Egretta albus*

Local Names: Moto baglo (Gujarati); Bada bagla (Hindi); Bada bak (Bengali); Bor bog (Assamese); Pedda pakshi (Telugu); Chennarai (Tamil); Chayamunti (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Vulture, ±91 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Jheels, marshes, and rivers

Breeding Period: July to February

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Maldives

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies, in groups of 4–6 individuals.



Intermediate Egret or Median Egret

Mesophoyx intermedia (Wagler, 1829)

Synonyms: *Ardea intermedia*, *Egretta intermedia*

Local Names: Dholo baglo (Gujarati); Karchia bagla (Hindi); Korche bak (West Bengal); Talla kongga (Telugu); Vellai kokku (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Heron, >80 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Jheels, marshes, estuaries, mangrove swamps

Breeding Period: July to February

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in water bodies and muddy, damp places in Banni Grassland.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonym: *Ardea garzetta*

Local Names: Nano dhor baglo (Gujarati); Kilchia or Karchia bagla (Hindi); Chhota korche bak (West Bengal); Teteri bog (Assamese); Chinna tella kongga (Telugu); Chinna vellai kokku (Tamil); Chinnamunti (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Heron, >63 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Gregarious in marshes, lakes, rivers, and tidal mudflats

Breeding Period: July to August

Clutch Size: 4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in water bodies, muddy and damp places in Banni Grassland.





Western Reef-Egret or Indian Reef Heron

Egretta gularis (Bosc, 1792)

Synonyms: *Egretta garzetta gularis*, *Egretta gularis gularis*

Local Names: Dariyay baglo (Gujarati); Kala bagla (Hindi); Thiramunti (Malayalam); Theerapu konga (Telugu); Karai kokku, Karpu kallavayan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Heron, ±63 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Rocky seashores, tidal lagoons and mudflats, mangroves, swamps

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Western India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in the vicinity of water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Black-crowned Night-Heron or Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Awaak, Waak (Gujarati); Waak, Kwaak, Tar bagla, Kokrai (Hindi); Bor (Kashmir); Bachka (West Bengal); Chongkhu (Manipur); Raat baggal, Raat kokku, Raj kok (Marathi); Chinta wakha (Telugu); Vakka (Tamil); Toppi kokku (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Heron, >58 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Inland water, estuaries, coastal lagoons, and backwater

Breeding Period: April to September

Clutch Size: 4–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded in perennial and seasonal water bodies of Banni Grassland.



Painted Stork

Mycteria leucocephala (Pennant, 1769)

Synonyms: *Ibis leucocephalus*, *Mycteria leucocephalus*

Local Names: Pili chanch dhonk (Gujarati); Chitroda (Kachchh); Janghil, Dokh (Hindi); Kankari (Bihar); Jhangil, Ram jhankar, Sona jangha (West Bengal); Yeru kala kongga (Telugu); Chenga narai, Sanguvalai narai (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Vulture, standing ± 93 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Large marshes

Breeding Period: August and January

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: Throughout the year

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded on the periphery of water bodies in groups of 6–8 individuals.

Woolly-necked Stork or White-necked Stork

Ciconia episcopus (Boddaert, 1783)

Synonym: *Ciconia episcopus*

Local Names: Safed dok honk, Kali tul (Gujarati); Manik jor (West Bengal); Laglag (Hindi); Bagula, Kardok, Kandesur, Kowrow (Marathi); Vannathi narai (Tamil); Kanua (Assam)

Shape & Size: Vulture, standing >106 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Flooded grasslands, irrigated fields, marshes in forest

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: A single individual recorded near a water body in Banni Grassland.

European White Stork or White Stork

Ciconia ciconia (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Uajali dhonk (Gujarati);
Laglag, Haji laglag, Ujli dhak, Gybar, Bada
retwa (Hindi); Wadumi kongga (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Vulture, standing >106 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, moist grassland

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal,
Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: A single individual recorded in
Lakhara wetland in Banni Grassland.

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Kali dhonk (Gujarati); Surmal (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Vulture, standing >106 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Marshes and near rivers

Breeding Period: April to May

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Nepal east to Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Black-necked Stork

Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus (Latham, 1790)

Synonyms: *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus asiaticus*, *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*

Local Names: Banaras, Kali dok dhonk (Gujarati); Banaras, Loharjang, Loha sarang (Hindi); Lohar jangh or Loha jangha (West Bengal); Telia hareng (Assam); Periya narai (Tamil); Pedda nalla kongra (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Vulture, standing >135 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Marshes and large rivers

Breeding Period: August and January

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in the vicinity of water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Asian Openbill-Stork or Asian Openbill

Anastomus oscitans (Boddaert, 1783)

Local Names: Fati chanch dhonk (Gujarati); Gungla, Ghonghila, Ghungil (Hindi); Dokar (Bihar); Thonte bhanga, Shakukh khol (West Bengal); Galu kongga (Telugu); Naththai kuththi narai (Tamil); Samuk bhanga (Assamese); Cherakokkan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Duck, >81 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Lakes and marshes

Breeding Period: July to September

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

White Ibis or Black-headed Ibis or Oriental White Ibis

Threskiornis melanocephalus (Latham, 1790)

Synonym: *Threskiornis melanocephala*

Local Names: Safed kankansar (Gujarati); Munda, Safed baza, Didhar (Hindi); Kachator, Mundukh (Bihar); Kastechara, Sada dochara (West Bengal); Boga koki bog (Assam); Thalaikaththi (Tamil); Kashanti kokku (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Heron, ±75 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Rivers, marshes, and inundated land

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Black Ibis or Red-naped Ibis

Pseudibis papillosa (Temminck, 1824)

Synonym: *Pseudibis papillosa papillosa*

Local Names: Kali kankansar (Gujarati); Baza, Kala baza, Karan kul (Hindi); Kalo dochara (West Bengal); Kala akohi bog (Assam); Nella kankanam (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Heron, ±68 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: River banks, stubble fields, and jheel margins

Breeding Period: March to October

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in water bodies, muddy and grassy areas of Banni Grassland.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Synonyms: *Plegadis autumnalis*, *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*

Local Names: Pan-nani kankansar (Gujarati); Chhota bujja (Hindi); Kachia tora (Bengali); That kankanam (Telugu); Karuppukottan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Heron, ±52 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes and river banks

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in water bodies in groups of 2–3 individuals.



Eurasian Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Chamcha (Gujarati); Chamach baza, Chamcha, Dabil (Hindi); Chinta, Khunte bak (West Bengal); Khantiya bog (Assam); Gent muku kongga (Telugu); Karandi much narai, Chappai chundan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Duck, standing >60 cm

Feeding Habit: Carnivorous

Habitat: Marshes and rivers

Breeding Period: July to November

Clutch Size: 4

Distribution: **India:** Throughout the year
Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in water bodies, muddy and damp places in Banni Grassland.

Greater Flamingo or American Flamingo

Phoenicopus ruber Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Phoenicopus roseus*,
Phoenicopus ruber antiquorum

Local Names: Moto hanj (Gujarati); Hanj pakkhi (Kachchh); Bog hans, Raj hans (Hindi); Kanmunthi, Kanthuti (West Bengal); Charaj baggo (Bihar); Pu kongga, Samudrapu chiluka (Telugu); Pun narai, Urian (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Vulture, >140 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Brackish lakes and lagoons, sea coast, estuaries, mudflats

Breeding Period: September to October, February to April

Clutch Size: 1–2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in some saline water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Lesser Flamingo

Phoenicopeterus minor Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1798

Synonym: *Phoeniconaias minor*

Local Names: Nano hanj (Gujarati); Chhota rajhans (Hindi)

Shape & Size: Duck, 90–105 cm

Feeding Habit: Feeds on aquatic plants and insects

Habitat: Gregarious in highly saturated brine areas

Breeding Period: June to July

Clutch Size: 1–2

Distribution: India: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa

Elsewhere: Sub-Saharan country, and from Arabian Peninsula to Pakistan

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: A breeding population recorded in Banni Grassland in Kachchh.



Pheasant-tailed Jacana

Hydrophasianus chirurgus (Scopoli, 1786)

Local Names: Katthaei lal manjar (Gujarati); Piho, Pihuya (Hindi); Gund kav, Gair kov (Kashmir); Surdal, Sakdal, Dal kukra, Jal mayor, Jal kokra, Chitra billai (West Bengal, Bihar); Lobo dak (Santhali); Miwa, Manal pura (Tamil); Tamara kozhi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Partridge, ±31 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Jheels and ponds with floating vegetation

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Northern and Western India

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Fairly Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies, muddy and damp places in Banni Grassland.

Bronze-winged Jacana

Metopidius indicus (Latham, 1790)

Local Names: Kalo jal manjar (Gujarati); Jal pipi (Hindi); Dal pipi, Jal pipi, Karatiya (West Bengal); Pipi, Kundai (Bihar); Thamnachenbi (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Partridge, Male ±28 cm, Female 31 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Jheels and ponds with floating vegetation

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Greater Painted-Snipe or Painted Snipe

Rostratula benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Rhynchoea capensis capensis*,
Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis

Local Names: Sali poonchh garkhod, Garkhod (Gujarati); Chaha (Hindi); Chegga, Kadakhocha (West Bengal); Khocha sordid, Chaha sorai, Chergya (Assam); Cheklaobi (Manipur); Mor ullan, Ullan kuruvi, Korra kuthi (Tamil); Muku puredi (Telugu); Chuntan kata (Malayalam); Pan lawa (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Quail, >25 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Reedy marshes and pools

Breeding Period: Round the year

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Himantopus ceylonensis*,
Himantopus himantopus himantopus

Local Names: Gajpauv (Gujarati); Gazpaon, Tinghur (Hindi); Sargain or Sargyne (Bihar); Lal gon, Lal thengi, Lam gora (West Bengal); Pavilla kal ullan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Partridge, <25 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Seashore and mudflats

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 10–15 in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.



Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

Pied Avocet or Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta Linnaeus, 1758

Local Names: Ulthi-chanch (Gujarati); Kusya chaha (Hindi); Kooni arichichan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Partridge, >46 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, lagoons, and mudflats, inland and seashore

Breeding Period: April

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Breeds in Great Rann of Kachchh.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Numenius hudsonicus*, *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

Local Names: Nani khalili (Gujarati); Chhota ghongh, Chhota gulinda (Hindi, West Bengal); Chhota guinyar (Bihar); Tetti kokku (Malayalam); Kuthirai malai kottan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Village hen, ±43 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Seashore and mudflats

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Asia, Europe, North America

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in groups of 5–6 individuals.



Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Numenius arquatus*

Local Names: Vilayti khalili, Khalili (Gujarati); Goar, Goonch, Bada gulinda (Hindi); Choppa, Sada kastachura (West Bengal); Guinyar (Bihar); Kuthirai malai kottan (Tamil); Valkokku (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Village hen, ± 58 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Seashore and mudflats

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 3–5

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in most of the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Kali poonchh gadero (Gujarati); Gudera, Gairiya, Jangral (Hindi); Malgajha (Bihar); Jaurali (Bengal); Tondulanka (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Village hen, Male ± 41 cm, Female ± 50 cm

Habitat: Marshes

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Near Threatened

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.



Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Limosa laponica*

Local Names: Patta poonchh gadero (Gujarati); Gudera, Gairiya, Khag (Hindi); Malgujha (Bihar); Jaurali (Bengal); Tondu ulanka (Telugu)

Shape & Size: Hen, Male ± 36 cm, Female ± 41 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Seashore and mudflats

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Western parts and islands

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 7–8 in most of the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Spotted Redshank or Dusky Redshank

Tringa erythropus (Pallas, 1764)

Synonyms: *Totanus erythropus*, *Tringa fuscus*

Local Names: Kali tutvari (Gujarati); Batan, Gatni, Surma (Hindi); Yerra kal ulanka (Tamil); Ngahoibi (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Partridge, ±33 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, reservoirs, estuaries

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Common Redshank

Tringa totanus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Totanus totanus*

Local Names: Rata pag tutvari (Gujarati);
Chhota batan (Hindi); Mali kottan, Segappu
kal ullan (Tamil); Ngahoibi (Manipur)

Shape & Size: Partridge, <28 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, margins of lakes, river
banks, and estuaries

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in some water
bodies of Banni Grassland.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis (Bechstein, 1803)

Synonyms: *Totanus stagnatilis*, *Tringa stagnatilis*

Local Names: Ganda pag tutvari (Gujarati); Chhota gotra (Hindi); Biler balubatan (Bengal)

Shape & Size: Partridge, <25 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, margins of ponds, inundated fields, and mudflats

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all the water bodies surveyed in Banni Grassland.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia (Gunnerus, 1767)

Synonyms: *Glottis nebularia*, *Totanus nebularia*, *Totanus nebularius*

Local Names: Moti lilapag tutvari (Gujarati); Tantara, Tintima (Hindi); Gotra (Bengal); Peria kottan (Tamil); Pachakkali (Malayalam); Timbla (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Partridge, >36 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, margins of ponds, lagoons, and mudflats

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Helodromas ochropus*, *Helodromas ochropus*, *Totanus ochropus*, *Tringa ochrophus*, *Tringa ochrophus*

Local Name: Lili tutvari (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Partridge, >34 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, margins of ponds, lagoons, and mudflats

Breeding Period: April to August

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Rhyacophilus glareola*

Local Names: Van tutvari (Gujarati); Chupka, Chobaha, Titvari (Hindi); Balu batan (Bengal); Chinna ulanka (Telugu); Kata kokku (Malayalam); Vaya ullan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Quail, ±21 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes, flooded paddy fields, mudflats

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Terek Sandpiper

Xenus cinereus (Guldenstadt, 1775)

Synonyms: *Tringa cinerea*, *Tringa cinereus*,
Tringa terek, *Xenus cinerea*

Local Name: Dariyaei tutvari (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Quail, >24 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Seashore, mudflats, and lagoons

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 3–5



Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Normally found in the vicinity of water bodies and mudflats in Banni Grassland.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym: *Tringa hypoleucos*

Local Names: Samanya tutvari (Gujarati);
Polte ulanka (Telugu); Kottan (Tamil);
Neerkata (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Quail, ±21 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Gravel bars in rivers, reservoirs,
lagoons, and seashore

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in the vicinity of water
bodies in Banni Grassland.



Common Snipe or Fantail Snipe

***Gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Synonyms: *Capella gallinago*, *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

Local Names: Pankh poonchh garkhod, Garkhod (Gujarati); Chaha (Hindi); Chegga, Kadakhocha (Bengal); Khocha sorai, Chaha sorai, Chergya (Assam); Cheklaobi (Manipur); Mor ullan, Ullan kuruvi, Korra kuthi (Tamil); Muku puredi (Telugu); Chuntan kata (Malayalam); Pal lawa (Marathi)

Shape & Size: Quail, >27 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus (Brunnich, 1764)

Synonyms: *Gallinago minima*, *Lymnocyptes gallinula*, *Lymnocyptes minima*

Local Names: Nani pankh poonchh garkhod (Gujarati); Chhota chaha (Hindi); Ullan (Tamil); Do lagin (Bihar)

Shape & Size: Quail, ±21 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Marshes

Breeding Period: May to July

Clutch Size: 4–5



Distribution: India: Andamans

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 4–6 individuals in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.



Little Stint

Calidris minuta (Leisler, 1812)

Synonyms: *Ereunetes minutus*, *Erolia minuta*

Local Names: Nano kichadiyo (Gujarati);
Chhota panlowwa (Hindi); Runni (Bihar);
Kosu ullan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, <15 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Shores, mudflats, and marshes

Breeding Period: June to July

Clutch Size: 4

Distribution: India: Throughout the year

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 5–10
individuals in all water bodies of Banni
Grassland.

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii (Leisler, 1812)

Synonyms: *Ereunetes temminckii*, *Erolia temminckii*

Local Names: Uajla pag kichadiyo (Gujarati);
Chhota panlowwa (Hindi); Runni (Bihar);
Kosu ullan (Tamil)

Shape & Size: Sparrow, ±15 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Coastal lagoons, tidal mudflats, and
inland marshes

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Andamans

Elsewhere: Nepal, Sri Lanka, and coastal areas

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in all water bodies of
Banni Grassland.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Ereunetes alpina*, *Erolia alpina*,
Pelidna alpina, *Tringa alpina*

Local Name: Kalo pet kichadiyo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Quail, ±19 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Seashore, mudflats, and river banks

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: North-west and peninsular India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Maldives

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 10–15 individuals in all water bodies of Banni Grassland.



Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Synonyms: *Calidris subarquata*, *Calidris testacea*, *Ereunetes ferrugineus*, *Erolia ferruginea*, *Erolia testacea*, *Tringa ferruginea*

Local Name: Vanki chanch kichadiyo (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Quail, ±20 cm

Feeding Habit: Feeds on aquatic invertebrates

Habitat: Seashore, mudflats, and marshes

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 3–4

Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Maldives

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Ruff or Reeve

Philomachus pugnax (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Machetes pugnax*, *Pavoncella pugnax*

Local Names: Tiliyo (Gujarati); Gehwala, Bagbad (Hindi); Geowala (Bengal)

Shape & Size: Partridge, Male ± 31 cm, Female > 25 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Mudflats, marshes, and wet paddy stubble

Breeding Period: March to July

Clutch Size: 4

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 4–6 individuals in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.



Eurasian Thick-knee or Stone Curlew

Burhinus oediconemus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local Names: Nano chadvo (Gujarati); Karvanak, Barsiri (Hindi); Kharma, Chhota shilabtan (Bengal); Kolleydu (Telugu); Kannadi al katti (Tamil); Vayalkannan (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Partridge, >41 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Stony semi-desert

Breeding Period: February to August

Clutch Size: 2



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 2–3 individuals in and around water bodies.



Great Thick-knee or Great Stone Plover

Esacus recurvirostris (Cuvier, 1829)

Synonym: *Burhinus recurvirostris*

Local Names: Moto chadvo (Gujarati); Bada karwanak (Hindi); Bada shilabatan (Bengal); Baligura (Assam)

Shape & Size: Village hen, ±51 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Rocky river beds and sea coasts

Breeding Period: February to July

Clutch Size: 2–3

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 2–3 individuals in and around water bodies.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms: *Charadrius squatarola*, *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*, *Squatarola squatarola*

Local Names: Batan titodi (Gujarati); Bada batan (Hindi, Bengali)

Shape & Size: Francolin, ±31 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Gregarious on sandy seashores, tidal creeks, and mudflats, less commonly inland

Breeding Period: April to July

Clutch Size: 3–4



Distribution: India: Coast of peninsular India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 5–10 individuals in and around water bodies.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Aegialitis hiaticula*, *Charadrius hiaticulus*

Local Name: Samany zini titodi (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Quail, 35–41 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Stony or sandy plains near lakes, bogs, and streams

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Northern Canada, Europe, South Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in groups of 6–10 individuals in and around all water bodies.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius Scopoli, 1786

Synonym: *Aegialitis dubia*

Local Names: Vilayti zini titodi (Gujarati); Zierrea, Merwa (Hindi); Jiria (Bengal); Kola katij (Kashmiri); Bytu ulanka, Rewa (Telugu); Sinna kottan (Tamil); Motira kozhi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Quail, <17 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Shingle beds in rivers, seashore and mudflats

Breeding Period: March to May

Clutch Size: 4



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around most of the water bodies in Banni Grassland.

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus, 1758

Synonyms: *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus*

Local Names: Bhulamani dhongili (Gujarati); Sinna kottan (Tamil); Manal kozhi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Quail, <17 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Sandy shores

Breeding Period: March to August

Clutch Size: 2–4



Distribution: India: East and west coast, Nicobars, Southern India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Lesser Sand Plover

Charadrius mongolus Pallas, 1776

Synonyms: *Aegialitis mongola*, *Charadrius monachus*, *Charadrius mongolus mongolus*

Local Names: Nani dhongili (Gujarati); Kottan (Tamil); Manal kozhi (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Quail, ±19 cm

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Habitat: Stony or sandy plains near lakes, bogs, and streams

Breeding Period: June to July

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: East and west coast, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around water bodies and mudflats in Banni Grassland.



Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus Linnaeus, 1766

Synonyms: *Chroicocephala ridibundus*,
Chroicocephalus ridibundus, *Larus ridibundus*
ridibundus

Local Name: Kala mathano dhomado
(Gujarati)

Shape & Size: House Crow, ± 43 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Sea coast and estuaries

Breeding Period: March to June

Clutch Size: 4–7

Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal,
Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all the
water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Pallas's Gull or Great Black-headed Gull

Larus ichthyaetus Pallas, 1773

Synonyms: *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*, *Larus ichthyaetus*

Local Names: Moto kala mathano dhomado (Gujarati); Dhomra (Hindi); Kheir (Bihar)

Shape & Size: Duck, 66–72 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Sea coast, large rivers and lakes

Breeding Period: May to August

Clutch Size: 5–8



Distribution: India: Kachchh, Rajasthan

Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Nepal

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all water bodies.

Brown-headed Gull or Tibetan Gull

Larus brunnicephalus Jerdon, 1840

Synonyms: *Chroicocephala brunnicephalus*,
Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus

Local Names: Ladakhi dhomado (Gujarati);
Dhomra (Hindi); Kadalpatta (Malayalam);
Kadal kakkai (Tamil)

Shape & Size: House Crow, >45 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Sea coast, lagoons, backwaters,
estuaries, and large rivers

Breeding Period: June to July

Clutch Size: 6–8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Slender-billed Gull

Larus geneii (Brème, 1839)

Synonyms: *Chroicocephalus genei*,
Chroicocephala genei, *Larus galastes*

Local Name: Gulabi dhomado (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: House Crow, >46 cm

Habitat: Sea coast, lagoons, backwaters, estuaries, and large rivers

Feeding Habit: Omnivorous

Breeding Period: June to August

Clutch Size: 5–8



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: North Africa

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybridus (Pallas, 1811)

Synonyms: *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias leucopareai*, *Sterna hybrida*

Local Names: Kashmiri vabagli (Gujarati); Tehari, Ganga cheel, Machh louka, Kurari (Hindi); Krind, Kru (Kashmir); Kadal kuruvi (Tamil); Ramadasu, Samudrapu kaki (Telugu); Kadalkakka (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: Pigeon, <25 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Lakes, marshes, coastal lagoons, and mudflats

Breeding Period: June to September

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Kashmir, Assam

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, East Nepal, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded in some water bodies of Banni Grassland.



Gull-billed Tern

***Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin, 1789)**

Synonyms: *Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica*,
Sterna angelica, *Sterna nilotica*

Local Names: Dhomada – male, Dhomadi – female (Gujarati); Tehari, Ganga cheel, Machh louka, Kurari (Hindi); Krind, Kreu (Kashmir); Kadal kuruvi (Tamil); Ramadasu, Samudrapu kaki (Telugu); Kadalkakka (Malayalam)

Shape & Size: House Crow, <38 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Jheels, rivers, and coastal mudflats

Breeding Period: April to June

Clutch Size: 2–3

Distribution: India: Andamans, West Bengal

Elsewhere: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Rare

Remarks: Recorded in a group of 2–3 individuals in Lakhara wetland of Banni Grassland.

Caspian Tern

Sterna caspia Pallas, 1770

Synonyms: *Hydroprogne tschegrava*,
Hydroprogne caspia, *Sterna caspica*, *Sterna*
tschegrava

Local Names: Dariyaei dhomadi (Gujarati);
Periya kadal kurivi (Tamil)

Shape & Size: House Crow, >51 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Sea coast and large lakes

Breeding Period: May to June

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Sea coast and large lakes

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident Migrant

Period in Banni: November to February

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Laridae

River Tern or Indian River Tern

Sterna aurantia Gray, 1831

Local Names: Kenchi poonchh vabagli (Gujarati); Kinai (Sindh)

Shape & Size: House Crow, ±38–46 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Large rivers and reservoirs

Breeding Period: March to May

Clutch Size: 3



Distribution: India: Throughout the country

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all the water bodies of Banni Grassland.

Little Tern

Sterna albifrons Pallas, 1764

Synonym: *Sternula albifrons*

Local Name: Nani vabagli (Gujarati)

Shape & Size: Myna, ±23 cm

Feeding Habit: Piscivorous

Habitat: Rivers, marshes, and estuaries

Breeding Period: May and June

Clutch Size: 2–3



Distribution: India: Gujarat, coast of Maharashtra, North India

Elsewhere: Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Conservation Status:

IUCN: Least Concern

IWPA: Schedule IV

Migratory Status: Resident

Status in Banni Grassland: Common

Remarks: Recorded in and around all water bodies.



References

- Akhtar, A. & Tiwari, J.K. (1991) Notes from Kutch. *NLBW* 31(11-12): 10–11.
- Akhtar, S.A. & Tiwari, J.K. (1992) Black-necked Grebe from Chhari-Dhand, Kutch, Gujarat. *NLBW* 32(9-10): 16.
- Ali, H. (1938) Some birds observed in Kutch and Kathiawar. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 40(1): 122.
- Ali, S. (1945) *The Birds of Kutch*. Government of Kutch, Kutch and Oxford University Press, Bombay.
- Ali, S. (1960) Additions to the birds of Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 56(3): 635.
- Ali, S. (2002) *The Book of Indian Birds*. Revised edn. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay and Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
- Ali, S. & Ripley, S.D. (1983) *Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan*. Oxford University Press, Bombay.
- Anjos, L. Dos (2001) Bird communities in five Atlantic forest fragments in southern Brazil. *Ornitol. Neotrop.* 12: 11–27.
- Anon. (2001a) Ecology and behaviour of resident raptors with special reference to endangered species (1990–1994). *Buceros* 5(3): 42–46.
- Anon. (2001b) Study of the ecology of grasslands of the Indian plains with particular reference to their endangered fauna (1991–1995). *Buceros* 5(3): 36–41.
- Anon. (2007) Ghost lights that dance on Banni grasslands when it's very dark. [http://www.hotspotsz.com/Ghost_lights_that_dance_on_Banni_grasslands_when_its_very_dark_\(Article_17089\).html](http://www.hotspotsz.com/Ghost_lights_that_dance_on_Banni_grasslands_when_its_very_dark_(Article_17089).html)
- Banni Breeders Association (2012) Gujarat: Thousands Of Maldharis Gather In Bhuj To Submit A Memorandum To The District Collector; Demand Early Implementation Of Forest Rights Act And Withdrawal Of Banni. <http://indigenouseoplesissues.com/index.php?option=comcontent&view=article&id=14317:gujarat-thousands-of-maldharis-gather-in-bhuj-to-submit-a-memorandum>
- Bapat, N.N. & Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1992) Occurrence of *Larus minutus* Pallas in Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 89(1): 119–120.
- Bates, R.S.P. (1945) The Birds of Kutch by Sálím Ali. Published for the Government of Kutch by Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 45(3): 408–409.
- Bhupathy, S. (1991) Population and resource utilization of waterfowl in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. Ph.D. Thesis. Rajasthan University, Jaipur.
- Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., & Hill, D.A. (1992) *Bird Census Techniques*. Academic Press, London.
- CEDO (Centre for Desert and Ocean) (2012) Banni Grassland and Chhari Dhand. http://www.birdforum.net/opus/Chhari_Dhand
- Dabadhgao, P.M. & Shankarnarayan, K.A. (1973) *The Grass Cover of India*. ICAR, New Delhi.
- Dharmakumarsinhji, R.S. (1955) *Birds of Saurashtra, India: With additional notes on the birds of Kutch and Gujarat*. Bhavnagar, Saurashtra. Published by the author.

- Dharmakumarsinhji, R.S. (1972) Some bird notes in Kutch. *Cheetal* 15(2): 62–63.
- Dieni, J.S. & Jones, S.L. (2002) A field test of the area search method for measuring breeding bird population. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 73: 253–257.
- GEC (Gujarat Ecology Commission) (1998) Ecorestoration of Banni Grassland. First Annual Technical Report, Gujarat Ecology Commission, Vadodara. Pp. 59.
- GIAP (1989) Kachchh and its agriculture: Problems and potential. The Gujarat Institute of Area Planning, Ahmedabad.
- GoI (Government of India) (2007) National Biodiversity Action Plan. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Pp. 11–29.
- Grewal, B. & Sen, S. (2006) Birding in India: places to be: Kutchh. *Sanctuary Asia* 26(6): 69.
- Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C., & Inskipp, T. (2011) *A Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Christopher Helm, London. Pp. 528.
- Groombridge, B. (1992) IUCN Red list of Threatened Mammals. IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. Pp. 39.
- Grubb, R.B. (1974) The Birds of Gir Forest (The ecology and behaviour of vultures in Gir Forest). University of Bombay, Bombay, India. Pp. 96.
- GUIDE (1998) Status of Banni Grassland and exigency of restoration efforts, Gujarat. Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj. Pp. 66.
- GUIDE (2004) Grassland action plan for Kachchh grasslands. Final report submitted to Gujarat Forest Department, Gandhinagar. Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj. Pp. 346.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1959) More bird notes from Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 55(3): 575–576.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1966) Another bird record from Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 63(1): 202–203.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1968) Some interesting migrants in Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 65(1): 225.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1979) Random thoughts and comments of a bird enthusiast from Kutch. *NLBW* 19(5): 2–5.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1985) Disappearance of some birds from Bhuj. *NLBW* 25(3-4): 13–14.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1988) Some rare birds reappear in Kutch. *NLBW* 27(11-12): 7–9.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1995) Sálím Ali and the birds of Kutch. *Hornbill* 1995(4): 8–11.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1996) Dr. Sálím Ali's contribution to Kutch ornithology. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 93(3): 5–7.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1997) Chhari Dhandh – wonderful wetland of Kutch. *NLBW* 37(3): 39–41.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (1999) Reduction of raptors. *NLBW* 39(3): 52.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (2004) On the behaviour and habitat preference of Stoliczka's Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhyncha* (Stoliczka). *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 101(2): 323–324.

- Himmatsinhji, M.K. (2007) An account of some bird introductions into Kachchh. *Flamingo* 5(1&2): 3–5.
- Himmatsinhji, M.K. & Varu, S.N. (2002) Two interesting avian records from Kutch, Gujarat state. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 99(1): 115–116.
- IBA (2004) Banni Grassland and Chhari Dhand. <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=18129>
- IBC (2012) Species with materials recorded in Banni Grasslands. <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/locality/oriental/india/gujarat/kutch-district/banni-grasslands#species>
- Joshua, J., Joshi, N.M., Kumar, V.V., Joshi, P.N., Rao, S.V.S., Sharma, Y., & Guleria, R. (2005) Sighting of Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) in Banni region of Kachchh district, Gujarat, India. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 102(2): 232.
- Kadikar, P. (1994) Status of Banni grassland (Kachchh, Gujarat) by 2000 AD using multitemporal remote sensing satellite data. Dissertation. Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.
- Kalsi, R.S. (2007) Status, distribution and management of Galliformes in arid and semi-arid zones of India. *Envis Bulletin: Wildlife and Protected Areas* 10(1): 101–104.
- Karr, J.R., Robinson, S., Blake, J.G., & Bierregaard, R.O. Jr (1990) Birds of four neotropical forests. In: Gentry, A.H. (Ed.) *Four Neotropical Rainforests*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Pp. 69–237.
- Khachar, L.J. (1976) The Blue cheeked Bee-Eater *Merops superciliosus*, its status in Kutch and Saurashtra. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 72(2): 543–544.
- Khacher, S. & Mundkur, T. (1990) Status and distribution of the King Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* (Scopoli) in Gujarat: results of a recent enquiry. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 86(3): 360–362.
- Lavkumar, K.S. (1956) Bird notes from Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 54(1): 190–191.
- Leafe, E.L. (1988) The history of improved grasslands. In: Jones, M.B. & Lazenby, A. (Eds) *The Grass Crops*. Chapman and Hall. Pp. 1–20.
- Lester, C.D. (1904) *The Birds of Kutch*. Kutch Darbar, Bhuj, Kutch.
- Madansinhji, H.H. (1957) Some riddles of game-bird migration in Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 54(2): 466–468.
- Madansinhji, H.H. (1977) Some riddles of game bird migration in Kutch 2. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 73(3): 523–524 (1976).
- Madansinhji, M. (1949) Bird notes from Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 48(2): 373–374.
- Maharao, K. (1968) Some bird records from Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 65(1): 225.
- Mathew, D. (1960) Bird netting and the weather: Some experiences in Kutch, March 1960. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 57(2): 417–421.
- Mehta, A. (1977) Kutch and its migratory birds. *NLBW* 17(11): 13.
- Parasharya, B.M., Mathew, K.L., & Yadav, D.N. (2000) Population estimation and general ecology of the Indian Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone*, in Kheda District, Gujarat. *Pavo* 38(1&2): 25–34.

- Rahmani, A.R. (1987) Protection for the great Indian bustard. *Oryx* 21(3): 174–179. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0030605300026922>
- Rahmani, A.R. (1988) Grassland birds of the Indian subcontinent: a review. In: Goriup, P.D. (Ed.) *Ecology and Conservation of Grassland Birds*. International Council for Bird Preservation, Cambridge, UK. Pp. 187–204.
- Rahmani, A.R. (1989) Grassland birds of the Indian subcontinent: A review. ICBP Technical Publication No. 7: 187–204.
- Rahmani, A.R. (1992) Threatened fauna of the Indian grasslands. In: Singh, K.P. & Singh, J.S. (Eds) *Tropical Ecosystems: Ecology and Management*. Wiley Eastern Limited, New Delhi. Pp. 143–150.
- Rahmani, A.R. (1997) A Study on the Ecology of Grasslands of the Indian Plains With Particular Reference to Their Endangered Fauna. Final Report. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.
- Rahmani, A.R., Himmatsinhji, M.K., & Tiwari, J.K. (1998) The Banni grassland: natural resource under siege. *Sanctuary Asia* XVIII(3): 38–49.
- Rao, A.S., Singh, R.S., & Ramakrishna, Y.S. (1996) Climate. In: Singh, S. and Kar, A. (Eds) *Integrated Natural and Human Resource Appraisal for Sustainable Development of Kachchh District*. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. Pp. 5–14.
- Ripley, S.D. (1948) Review: The Birds of Kutch. *The Auk* 65(1): 148.
- Roy, B. (1973) Pattern and Causes of Rann of Kachchh. Ph.D. Thesis. M.S. University, Vadodara.
- SAC (Space Application Center) (2001) Quantification of Grassland Areas of Gujarat by Remote Sensing and GIS. Final Report. Ahmedabad.
- Samant, J.S., Prakash, V., & Naoroji, R. (1995) Ecology and Behaviour of Resident Raptors with Special Reference to Endangered Species. Final Report 1990–1993. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.
- Sen, A.K. (2008) Impact of desertification on integrated management of resources in Kachchh district, Gujarat. In: Thakur, B. (Ed.) *Perspectives in Resource Management in Developing Countries Vol. 3. Ecological Degradation of Land*. Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi. Pp. 165–177.
- Sen, S.K. (2012) Birds of Kachchh, Gujarat. <http://www.kolkatabirds.com/gujarat/gujaratclit.htm>.
- Shekar, P.B. (1960) Further additions to the birds of Kutch. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 57(1): 224–225.
- Singh, B., Singh, R., Dutt, T.K., Dadu, M., Singh, D., & Lewis, M. (2004) Kutchh bird and animal survey. Report. 20th October 2004 to 29th October 2004: 1–11.
- Singh, S. & Kar, A. (1996) *Integrated Natural and Human Resource Appraisal for Sustainable Development of Kachchh District*. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. Pp. 165.
- Sørensen, U.G. (2007) Notes on mammals and birds recorded in south India and Gujarat. http://www.netfugl.dk/trip_reports/asia/SouthernIndia_Gujarat_JanFeb07_ver02.pdf
- Sreekar, R. (2010) A study on the habits of Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*. *Indian Birds* 5(5): 152–153.

- Subramanya, S. (1996) Distribution, status and conservation of Indian heronries. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 93(3): 459–486.
- Tiwari, J.K. (1990) Bird count across a lagoon in Kutch. *NLBW* 30(3-4): 6–7.
- Tiwari, J.K. (1995) Nesting of Short-toed Eagle in Kutch. *NLBW* 34(6): 137.
- Tiwari, J.K. (1996) “Charri-Dhand” a pristine wetland (flooded grassland) of Banni. *The Wildlifer* 1(2): 5–6.
- Tiwari, J.K. (1997) Avian profile of Chhari-Dhand, Kutch, Gujarat, India. *NLBW* 37(1): 1–4.
- Tiwari, J.K. (2006) Chhari-Dhand – a desert wetland (IBA) in Banni grasslands of Kutch, Gujarat. *Mistnet* 7(2): 13–14.
- Tiwari, J.K. (2011) Checklist of birds of Kachchh. http://www.cedobirding.com/index_files/Page910.htm
- Tiwari, J.K. & Rahmani, A.R. (1997) The Banni Grasslands. In: Rahmani, A.R. (Ed.) A Study on the Ecology of Grasslands of the Indian Plains with Particular Reference to Their Endangered Fauna. Final Report. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. Pp. 341–433.
- Tiwari, J.K., Crivelli, A.J., & Varu, S.N. (2003) Status and distribution of pelicans in Kutch District of Gujarat. *NLBW* 43(2): 22–24.
- Vaidya, A.A. (1987) Spotting of Habshi Flamingos in Nani-Banni. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 83(3): 661–662.
- Varu, S. (1988) Some information on the shore birds of Kutch. *NLBW* 28(7-8): 13.
- Yadava, P.S. & Singh, J.S. (1977) *Grassland Vegetation. Vol. 2. Progress in Ecology.* Today and Tomorrow's Publishers, New Delhi. Pp. 132.

Index of Common Names

- Avocet, Pied 254
- Babbler, Common 154
____, Jungle 156
____, Large Grey 155
____, Yellow-eyed 153
- Bee-eater, Blue-cheeked 100
____, Little Green 101
- Bluethroat 165
- Bulbul, Red-vented 140
____, White-eared 139
- Bunting, Black-headed 189
____, Grey-necked 190
____, House 191
- Bushchat, Pied 167
____, Stoliczka's 169
- Bushlark, Singing 115
- Bush-Quail, Rock 72
- Bustard, Houbara 78
- Buttonquail, Common 74
- Buzzard, Long-legged 32
____, White-eyed 33
- Chiffchaff, Common 161
- Cisticola, Zitting 141
- Collared-Dove, Eurasian 80
____, Red 81
- Coot, Common 217
- Cormorant, Great 224
____, Indian 225
____, Little 226
- Coucal, Greater 90
- Courser, Cream-coloured 58
____, Indian 59
- Crag Martin, Dusky 116
- Crane, Common 75
____, Demoiselle 77
____, Sarus 76
- Crow, House 128
____, Large-billed 129
- Cuckoo, Common 87
____, Pied 85
- Curlew, Eurasian 256
- Darter 227
- Dove, Little Brown 82
- ____, Spotted 83
- Drongo, Black 127
- Duck, Comb 209
____, Tufted 207
____, Western Spot-billed 200
- Dunlin 271
- Eagle, Bonelli's 34
____, Booted 35
____, Eastern Imperial 36
____, Greater Spotted 39
____, Lesser Spotted 40
____, Steppe 38
____, Tawny 37
- Eagle-Owl, Eurasian 92
- Egret, Cattle 232
____, Intermediate 234
____, Large 233
____, Little 235
____, Western Reef- 236
- Falcon, Laggar 56
____, Peregrine 53
____, Red-headed 55
- Finch-Lark, Rufous-tailed 110
- Flamingo, Greater 248
____, Lesser 249
- Flycatcher, Red-breasted 163
____, Spotted 162
- Francolin, Black 68
____, Grey 69
- Gadwall 201
- Garganey 203
- Godwit, Bar-tailed 258
____, Black-tailed 257
- Goose, Greylag 194
- Grebe, Black-necked 219
____, Great Crested 218
____, Little 220
- Greenshank, Common 262
- Gull, Black-headed 281
____, Brown-headed 283
____, Pallas's 282
____, Slender-billed 284
- Harrier, Montagu's 49
____, Northern 47
____, Pallid 48
____, Western Marsh- 50
- Hawk-Cuckoo, Common 86
- Heron, Black-crowned Night-
237
____, Grey 228
____, Indian Pond- 231
____, Little 230
____, Purple 229
- Hobby, Eurasian 54
- Honey-buzzard, Oriental 27
- Hoopoe, Eurasian 104
- Hoopoe-Lark, Greater 111
- Hypocolius, Grey 138
- Ibis, Black 245
____, Glossy 246
____, White 244
- Iora, White-tailed 133
- Jacana, Bronze-winged 251
____, Pheasant-tailed 250
- Kestrel, Common 57
- Kingfisher, Common 211
____, Pied 210
____, White-throated 212
- Kite, Black 28
____, Black-winged 26
____, Brahminy 29
- Koel, Asian 88
- Lapwing, Red-wattled 62
____, Sociable 64
____, White-tailed 61
____, Yellow-wattled 63
- Lark, Crested 113
____, Indian 107
____, Indian Short-toed 112
____, Tawny 114
- Magpie-Robin, Oriental 164
- Malkoha, Sirkeer 89
- Minivet, Small 131
____, White-bellied 132
- Moorhen, Common 216
- Munia, White-throated 188
- Myna, Bank 137
____, Common 136

- Nightjar, Eurasian 95
 ____, Indian 96
 ____, Savanna 97
- Osprey 52
 Owl, Barn 91
 ____, Short-eared 94
 Owlet, Spotted 93
- Painted-Snipe, Greater 252
 Parakeet, Rose-ringed 84
 Peafowl, Indian 73
 Pelican, Dalmatian 222
 ____, Great White 221
 ____, Spot-billed 223
 Petronia, Chestnut-shouldered 178
 Pigeon, Rock 79
 Pintail, Northern 198
 Pipit, Long-billed 181
 ____, Paddyfield 180
 ____, Tawny 179
 Plover, Common Ringed 277
 ____, Grey 276
 ____, Kentish 279
 ____, Lesser Sand 280
 ____, Little Ringed 278
 Pochard, Common 206
 ____, Red-crested 205
 Pratincole, Small 60
 Prinia, Ashy 146
 ____, Graceful 147
 ____, Grey-breasted 142
 ____, Jungle 145
 ____, Plain 144
 ____, Rufous-fronted 143
- Quail, Common 70
 ____, Rain 71
- Raven, Common 130
 Redshank, Common 260
 ____, Spotted 259
 Redstart, Black 166
 Reed-Warbler, Blyth's 150
 ____, Clamorous 149
 Robin, Indian 174
 Roller, European 102
 ____, Indian 103
 Ruff or Reeve 273
- Sandgrouse, Chestnut-bellied 65
 ____, Painted 67
 ____, Spotted 66
 Sandpiper, Common 266
 ____, Curlew 272
 ____, Green 263
 ____, Marsh 261
 ____, Terek 265
 ____, Wood 264
 Shelduck, Ruddy 196
 Shikra 30
 Shoveler, Northern 204
 Shrike, Bay-backed 121
 ____, Brown 125
 ____, Long-tailed 124
 ____, Red-backed 122
 ____, Rufous-tailed 123
 ____, Southern Grey 126
 Snake-eagle, Short-toed 51
 Snipe, Common 267
 ____, Jack 268
 Sparrow, House 177
 Sparrow-hawk, Eurasian 31
 Sparrow-Lark, Ashy-crowned 108
 ____, Black-crowned 109
 Spoonbill, Eurasian 247
 Starling, Brahminy 134
 ____, Rosy 135
 Stilt, Black-winged 253
 Stint, Little 269
 ____, Temminck's 270
 Stone Chat, Common 168
 Stork, Asian Openbill- 243
 ____, Black 241
 ____, Black-necked 242
 ____, European White 240
 ____, Painted 238
 ____, Woolly-necked 239
 Sunbird, Purple 176
 Swallow, Barn 117
 ____, Red-rumped 120
 ____, Streak-throated 119
 ____, Wire-tailed 118
 Swamphen, Purple 215
 Swift, Alpine 98
 ____, Little 99
- Tailorbird, Common 148
 Teal, Common 199
 ____, Cotton 208
 ____, Marbled 197
 Tern, Caspian 287
 ____, Gull-billed 286
 ____, Little 289
 ____, River 288
 ____, Whiskered 285
 Thick-knee, Eurasian 274
 ____, Great 275
 Tit, White-naped 175
- Vulture, Cinereous 42
 ____, Griffon 43
 ____, Indian 44
 ____, Red-headed 41
 ____, Scavenger 46
 ____, White-rumped 45
- Wagtail, Citrine 183
 ____, Grey 184
 ____, White 185
 ____, Yellow 182
 Warbler, Booted 152
 ____, Desert 160
 ____, Orphean 157
 ____, Paddyfield 151
 Watercock 214
 Waterhen, White-breasted 213
 Weaver, Baya 186
 ____, Streaked 187
 Wheatear, Desert 172
 ____, Isabelline 170
 ____, Kurdish 171
 ____, Variable 173
 Whimbrel 255
 Whistling-Duck, Lesser 195
 Whitethroat, Common 159
 ____, Lesser 158
 Wigeon, Eurasian 202
 Woodpecker, Yellow-fronted Pied 106
 Wryneck, Eurasian 105

Index of Scientific Names

- Accipiter badius* 30
— *nisus* 31
Acridotheres ginginianus 137
— *tristis* 136
Acrocephalus agricola 151
— *dumetorum* 150
— *stentoreus* 149
Actitis hypoleucos 266
Aegithina nigrolutea 133
Aegyptius monachus 42
Alaemon alaudipes 111
Alcedo atthis 211
Amaurornis phoenicurus 213
Ammomanes phoenicurus 110
Anas acuta 198
— *chrypeata* 204
— *crecca* 199
— *penelope* 202
— *poecilorhyncha* 200
— *querquedula* 203
— *strepera* 201
Anastomus oscitans 243
Anhinga melanogaster 227
Anser anser 194
Anthus campestris 179
— *rufulus* 180
— *similis* 181
Apus affinis 99
Aquila clanga 39
— *heliaca* 36
— *nipalensis* 38
— *pomarina* 40
— *rapax* 37
Ardea cinerea 228
— *purpurea* 229
Ardeola grayii 231
Asio flammeus 94
Athene brama 93
Aythya ferina 206
— *fuligula* 207

Bubo bubo 92
Bubulcus ibis 232
Burbinus oedicephalus 274
Butastur teesa 33
Buteo rufinus 32

Butorides striatus 230

Calandrella raytal 112
Calidris alpina 271
— *ferruginea* 272
— *minuta* 269
— *temminckii* 270
Caprimulgus affinis 97
— *asiaticus* 96
— *europaeus* 95
Casmerodius albus 233
Centropus sinensis 90
Ceryle rudis 210
Charadrius alexandrinus 279
— *dubius* 278
— *hiaticula* 277
— *mongolus* 280
Chlamydotis undulata 78
Chlidonias hybridus 285
Chrysomma sinense 153
Ciconia ciconia 240
— *episcopus* 239
— *nigra* 241
Circus aeruginosus 51
— *cyaneus* 47
— *macrourus* 48
— *pygargus* 49
Cisticola juncidis 141
Clamator jacobinus 85
Columba livia 79
Copsychus saularis 164
Coracias benghalensis 103
— *garrulus* 102
Corvus corax 130
— *macrorhynchos* 129
— *splendens* 128
Coturnix coromandelica 71
— *coturnix* 70
Cuculus canorus 87
Cursorius coromandelicus 59
— *cursor* 58

Dendrocopos mahrattensis 106
Dendrocygna javanica 195
Dicrurus macrocercus 127

Egretta garzetta 235
— *gularis* 236
Elanus caeruleus 26

Emberiza buchanani 190
— *melanocephala* 189
— *striolata* 191
Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus 242
Eremopterix grisea 108
— *nigriceps* 109
Esacus recurvirostris 275
Eudynamis scolopacea 88

Falco chicquera 55
— *jugger* 56
— *peregrinus* 53
— *subbuteo* 54
— *tinnunculus* 57
Ficedula parva 163
Francolinus francolinus 68
— *pondicerianus* 69
Fulica atra 217

Galerida cristata 113
— *deva* 114
Gallicrex cinerea 214
Gallinago gallinago 267
Gallinula chloropus 216
Gelochelidon nilotica 286
Glareola lactea 60
Grus antigone 76
— *grus* 75
— *virgo* 77
Gyps bengalensis 45
— *fulvus* 43
— *indicus* 44

Halcyon smyrnensis 212
Haliastur indus 29
Hieraaetus fasciatus 34
— *pennatus* 35
Hierococcyx varius 86
Himantopus himantopus 253
Hippolais caligata 152
Hirundo concolor 116
— *daurica* 120
— *fluvicola* 119
— *rustica* 117
— *smithii* 118
Hydrophasianus chirurgus 250
Hypocolius ampelinus 138

- Jynx torquilla* 105
Lanius collurio 122
 ___ *cristatus* 125
 ___ *isabellinus* 123
 ___ *meridionalis* 126
 ___ *schach* 124
 ___ *vittatus* 121
Larus brunnicephalus 283
 ___ *geniei* 284
 ___ *ichthyaetus* 282
 ___ *ridibundus* 281
Limosa lapponica 258
 ___ *limosa* 257
Lonchura malabarica 188
Luscinia svecica 165
Lymnocyptes minimus 268

Marmaronetta angustirostris 197
Merops orientalis 101
 ___ *persicus* 100
Mesophox intermedia 234
Metopidius indicus 251
Milvus migrans 28
Mirafra cantillans 115
 ___ *erythroptera* 107
Motacilla alba 185
 ___ *cinerea* 184
 ___ *citreola* 183
 ___ *flava* 182
Muscicapa striata 162
Mycteria leucocephala 238

Nectarinia asiatica 176
Neophron percnopterus 46
Netta rufina 205
Nettapus coromandelianus 208
Numenius arquata 256
 ___ *phaeopus* 255
Nycticorax nycticorax 237

Oenanthe deserti 172
 ___ *isabellina* 170
 ___ *picata* 173
 ___ *xanthopyrna* 171
Orthotomus sutorius 148

Pandion haliaetus 52
Parus nuchalis 175

Passer domesticus 177
Pavo cristatus 73
Pelecanus crispus 222
 ___ *onocrotalus* 221
 ___ *philippensis* 223
Perdica argoondah 72
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus 131
 ___ *erythropygius* 132
Pernis ptilorhynchus 27
Petronia xanthocollis 178
Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii 89
Phalacrocorax carbo 224
 ___ *fuscicollis* 225
 ___ *niger* 226
Philomachus pugnax 273
Phoenicopterus minor 249
 ___ *ruber* 248
Phoenicurus ochrurus 166
Phylloscopus collybita 161
Platalea leucorodia 247
Plegadis falcinellus 246
Ploceus manyar 187
 ___ *philippinus* 186
Pluvialis squatarola 276
Podiceps cristatus 218
 ___ *nigricollis* 219
Porphyrio porphyrio 215
Prinia buchanani 143
 ___ *gracilis* 147
 ___ *hodgsonii* 142
 ___ *inornata* 144
 ___ *socialis* 146
 ___ *sylvatica* 145
Pseudibis papillosa 245
Psittacula krameri 84
Pterocles exustus 65
 ___ *indicus* 67
 ___ *senegallus* 66
Pycnonotus cafer 140
 ___ *leucotis* 139

Recurvirostra avosetta 254
Rostratula benghalensis 252

Sarcogyps calvus 41
Sarkidiornis melanotos 209
Saxicola caprata 167
 ___ *macrorhynchus* 169
 ___ *torquatus* 168

Saxicoloides fulvicata 174
Spilopelia chinensis 83
Sterna albifrons 289
 ___ *aurantia* 288
 ___ *caspia* 287
Streptopelia decaocto 80
 ___ *senegalensis* 82
 ___ *tranquebarica* 81
Sturnus pagodarum 134
 ___ *roseus* 135
Sylvia communis 159
 ___ *curruca* 158
 ___ *hortensis* 157
 ___ *nana* 160

Tachybaptus ruficollis 220
Tachymarpis melba 98
Tadorna ferruginea 196
Threskiornis melanocephalus 244
Tringa erythropus 259
 ___ *glareola* 264
 ___ *nebularia* 262
 ___ *ochropus* 263
 ___ *stagnatilis* 261
 ___ *totanus* 260
Turdoides caudatus 154
 ___ *malcolmi* 155
 ___ *striatus* 156
Turnix suscitator 74
Tyto alba 91

Upupa epops 104

Vanellus gregarius 64
 ___ *indicus* 62
 ___ *leucurus* 61
 ___ *malabaricus* 63

Xenus cinereus 265

Authors' Profiles



Mukeshkumar H. Koladiya obtained a Masters in Zoology from Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat. He is an ornithologist and is presently working as a Project Fellow in Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE), Bhuj, India. He has been involved in many research and consultancy projects of the Institute. He has published more than 15 research papers in peer-reviewed journals of national and international repute.



Nikunj B. Gajera obtained a Ph.D. in Zoology from KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj, Gujarat. He is an ornithologist and is presently working as a Scientist in the Terrestrial Ecology Division of Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj, India. He has published more than 25 research papers on various aspects of birds, ecology, and biodiversity. Besides, he has been involved in more than 20 research and consultancy projects.



Arun Kumar Roy Mahato received a Ph.D. in Zoology from Vinoba Bhawe University, Hazaribag, Jharkhand. He is an ecologist and is presently working as a Scientist in Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj, India. He has research experience in animal behavior, socio-ecology, and biodiversity from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata. He has published more than 30 research papers in national and international journals. He is a recipient of the Young Scientist Award from the International Society for Ecological Communication.



V. Vijay Kumar received a Ph.D. in Biosciences from Saurashtra University, Rajkot. He has 25 years experience in the fields of wetland ecology, herpetology, wildlife conservation and management, as well as grassland and saline land restoration/reclamation. He is presently Additional Director at Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj, India. He has published more than 50 research papers in various national and international journals.



R.V. Asari obtained a Master's degree from M.S. University, Baroda. An Indian Forest Service Officer of the Gujarat Cadre, he retired as PCCF (WL). He worked in several positions in the Government of Gujarat and Government of India. After superannuation from the IFS, he joined Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology as a Director. He has a deep interest in forestry, wildlife, ecology, and environment. At core, he is a natural resource manager and landscape ecologist. He worked for Project Tiger and Protected Area management for many years.

Photo Credits

- Anil Gohil 161
- Arpit Deomurari 36, 39, 46, 52, 59, 60, 64, 68, 71, 72, 87, 95, 107, 109, 112, 114, 151, 159, 163, 165, 167, 169, 175, 190, 194, 198, 202, 218, 227, 251, 254, 269, 271, 275, 277, 287, 288
- Arthur Grosset 66
- Deepak Sahu 184, 270
- Delip K. Das Bisharga 34
- Devesh Gadhavi 58, 111, 138, 157, 160
- Haresh Patel 28, 35, 62, 69, 79, 88, 127, 136, 146, 147, 158, 171, 176
- Jasmin Kava 32, 50, 70, 105, 181, 185, 196, 205, 216, 225, 240, 267, 285
- Jignesh Kundal 90, 183, 195, 199, 203
- Kashyap Patel 103
- Kartik Upadhyay 26, 40, 53, 56, 57, 63, 63, 86
- Kirti Trivedi 1, 2, 8, 10, 17, 18, 24, 192, 290, 304
- M.H. Trivedi 51, 54, 74, 81, 91, 132, 145, 148, 179, 182, 201, 220, 265
- Mukesh Koladiya 49, 78, 98, 115, 117, 121, 125, 137, 144, 150, 155, 166, 177, 206, 228, 234, 235
- Nikunj Gajera 30, 33, 41, 45, 55, 73, 75, 76, 77, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 89, 96, 101, 106, 108, 110, 116, 118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 134, 135, 154, 164, 170, 174, 186, 187, 188, 191, 212, 215, 217, 221, 232, 233, 238, 243, 244, 246, 247, 249, 250, 253, 257, 278
- Nishith Dharaiya 29, 43, 44, 241
- P.A. Vihol 42
- Pratap Sevak 27
- Rohit Patel 67, 97
- Sanjib Sarangi 149, 152, 153, 208, 214, 223, 263, 268
- Shakti Nanda 142
- Shivram Tiwari 37, 38, 65, 92, 93, 100, 102, 113, 123, 140, 143, 156, 162, 172, 173, 180, 204, 222, 224, 226, 231, 236, 242, 245, 248, 255, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 272, 273, 276, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 286
- Swati Das (Illustrations) 47, 197
- Urmil Javeri 61, 141, 203, 289
- V. Vijay Kumar 99
- Yogendra Shah 31, 48

Birds of Banni Grassland

Authors

Mukesh H. Koladiya
Nikunj B. Gajera
A.K. Roy Mahato
V. Vijay Kumar
R.V. Asari

Text Editing

Gayatri Ugra

Design

Kirti Trivedi

Published by
The Ravi Sankaran Foundation

www.ravisankaran.org



Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology
Mundra Road, Bhuj 370 001
Kachchh, Gujarat
India

www.gujaratdesertecology.com

©

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology,
2016

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, adapted, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of the copyright holder.

Printed at Jak Printers,
Mumbai, India

The Ravi Sankaran Foundation supports conservation research through its Fellowship Programme for young conservationists. The Foundation was set up in the memory of

Dr. Ravi Sankaran (Oct 4, 1963 – Jan 17, 2009), an ornithologist who dedicated his life to biodiversity conservation throughout India, as a researcher, teacher, mentor, and finally, Director of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History.

Ravi gained recognition for his pioneering research on the endangered Lesser Florican in western India in the 1980s, as a graduate student at the Bombay Natural History Society. His research provided the basic framework for conservation of this endangered species, and of other species and habitats he studied subsequently. He was a tremendous source of inspiration to colleagues and students, and a prominent figure in the field of wildlife conservation in India.

Ravi's work on the Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet on the Andaman & Nicobar islands provided crucial insights for the conservation of this species, and he was deeply involved in developing community-based conservation efforts including ranching/sustainable harvesting of these birds' nests. This approach is radically different from the dominant preservationist approach in India, and illustrates Ravi's distinct and balanced perspective on conservation.



Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) was established in May 1995 and registered as public trust and society with a mission to catalyse the process of ameliorating hardships to human beings in desert ecosystems of Gujarat, following sound ecological principles and carefully using scientific knowledge, imaginative technology and capital.

GUIDE's mandate is to focus on desert arid and semi-arid ecosystems of Gujarat, with special emphasis on Kachchh; develop benchmark database for ecosystems of Kachchh and thereafter undertake continuous monitoring and trend-analysis through specific research activities; identify problem areas and evolve appropriate solutions and management strategies through basic and applied research; formulate and implement relevant projects that would provide models for emulation; and disseminate ecological information and communicate action plans to suit local conditions, through extension and other programmes.



